

## Nations Reality

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# Nations Reality

by [Arumidden](#)

## Summary

For months, Netflix had been promoting *Nations Reality* as a dramatic yet realistic portrayal of the Nation Personifications' behind-the-scenes lives throughout history. Supposedly, it would be the first drama to be made that featured the NPs as a whole, instead of just a single NP and their life.

When it was finally released, it was a total bomb. It was historically inaccurate, badly written, and an all-around mess.

But when America decided to livestream his reaction to it on YouTube, it became a meme.

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Based on the hilarious 'in-universe' memes made by [@j-ellyfish](#) and [@paperuniverse](#)

## Notes

The posts this is based on can be found [here](#). They're 'in-universe' memes and I think they're genius. Those posts grabbed hold of my brain and refused to let go.

This isn't necessarily a Nations Revealed AU, so much as a universe where Nations have always been public knowledge, but the invention of social media has made them far more popular than ever before.

Thanks to [oompadearest](#) for betaing!

# Season 1

## Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)

For months, Netflix had been promoting *Nations Reality* as a dramatic yet realistic portrayal of the Nation Personifications' behind-the-scenes lives throughout history. Supposedly, it would be the first drama to be made that featured the NPs as a whole, instead of just a single NP and their life. Netflix already had multiple seasons planned out: season one would focus on North America, season two would focus on Europe, season three would focus on East Asia, etc. The actors they had cast even closely resembled the NPs themselves. Their producers and marketing team were certainly optimistic.

However, the NPs themselves had been skeptical. They were excited about the show when they first heard about it; many seemed excited to see themselves being portrayed in a big Hollywood-scale show. But at the same time, many feared it would be overdramatized, leave out certain NPs entirely, be too America-focused or Western Eurocentric since it was being produced by Netflix, or just that it would be flat-out wrong. England's NP had tweeted his expectations for the show, and they had been pessimistic *at best*. He questioned how Netflix expected to shove the *thousands* of years of NP interactions into just a few hours of television without cutting anything important. He also bemoaned how much the show would surely focus on the United States and ignore most other NPs' existence. Many other European, South American, and Asian NPs had retweeted the rant or responded with their own worries.

And sure enough, the NPs were right. The NPs had all reacted with general disapproval, and were generally unsurprised that the show was bad. Most simply turned it off after an episode or two.

Only the first season had been released, but the show had a 32% on Rotten Tomatoes. Everyone from accredited historians to amateurs on youtube and social media had been dragging the show. Endless amounts of memes had been spawned as a result.

But all those reactions were *nothing* compared to when an actual Nation Personification finally reviewed the show for himself.

Ever the social media star, it was no surprise that the American NP had a lot to say. After all, the show was about *his* life. Alfred had announced that he would be reacting to the entire first season in a series of live streams on his YouTube channel. Since the NP already had a good 20 million subscribers, his streams reacting to the show became a spectacle in itself.

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## I REACT TO NATIONS REALITY

2.6M views • Streamed 3 days ago

**AlfredFREEDOMJones** 25.7M

“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A!

You already know what this stream is. I’ve been so excited to watch this train wreck with y’all. I got my popcorn, I’m in my comfy binge-watching clothes, I’m ready! I know each episode is an hour, so I think each stream will be two episodes each. I’ve also got my phone nearby, cause I know some of my other Nation friends said they would tweet at me during the stream. Although I heard that the first season is mostly just North America? So I’m not sure who is gonna be showing up. Imma be honest here: other than the memes, which have been absolutely hilarious, I’ve been purposefully staying away from any spoilers cause I wanted to go into this blind. Do they count as spoilers if it’s based on real history? Don’t matter. Besides, I’m not here to critique the historical accuracy; lots of historians online have already done that. I’m just here to talk about how me and my fellow NPs are portrayed, which I know is gonna be *badly*.

Anyway, let’s get this shit show on the road!”

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The first episode focused on the discovery of the Americas and the beginning of colonization by the Europeans. However, instead of starting with the Spanish colonies, the show immediately skipped to *England* hearing the news of Columbus’s discovery.

“Oh god, is that supposed to be Arthur? That just feels so... *wrong*. That actor looks nothing like him! At least they got a Brit to play him. I remember getting a text from Italy Romano that apparently the guy who plays him is Italian-American but can barely say the word ‘pizza’ correctly. Also, what happened to Mexico? She’s like a good 50-60 years older than me? Wouldn’t she have shown up first?”

The show then skipped ahead by about a century to the English arriving at Jamestown.

“And we’re just skipping Roanoke entirely, ok then. RIP Roanoke, guess you don’t get any screen time,” Alfred chuckled.

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A few decades passed in the show, and more colonies were founded by the English. However, no other NPs were introduced. America was involved with events all over the colonies, the most important of which was the Salem Witch Trials, where the young Nation was unfortunately confused for a witch by the ultra-religious settlers.

“Wait, where are the other colonies?” Alfred asked. “Why are they so late? At least Virginia should have shown up already.”

The stream’s audience was quick to inform him that none of the American State Personifications appeared in the show.

“WHAT?! They don’t show up *at all*? No wonder historians have been tearing this show to shreds! And this is only the first episode!”

Time continued to gradually pass in the show, with America taking the place of any and all of the American SPs whenever they were involved with major historical events. The show would occasionally skip ahead years at a time, with America being randomly in different places with little to no explanation other than what year the scene took place in.

“Oh my god, it’s like I’m living 10 different people’s lives on top of my own,” Alfred laughed. “Why didn’t they just cast more people? Why are there no states?”

A minute or so after saying this, Alfred’s phone chimed. He quickly checked the text he had received.

“Ha! Ok, so Delaware is watching the stream and texted me. He says that apparently he asked the same thing when he saw the cast list and he tweeted at Netflix to ask them. Apparently they claimed that it was because if they included every country’s lower divisions’ Personifications, it would be ‘too complicated and confusing to viewers unfamiliar with the countries’ differing systems.’ I call bullshit!”

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The first episode ended around the 1730s, with America still a child and England the only other Nation to even show up. Alfred took a quick break to answer the chat’s questions, then started episode 2, which focused on the Revolution and the road leading up to it.

“Wait it *starts* at the Treaty of Paris? It skips the entire French and Indian War? Ok... I was a bit concerned when it skipped over King Philip’s War in the last episode but this one too? How much does it skip? Also where is Matt? He started living with us after the French and Indian War ended. He should be here now.”

The comments began flooding with laughter and people reminding others not to spoil anything.

“Oh that’s a great sign,” Alfred’s voice dropped with sarcasm. “I could feel my body filling with dread. I can’t *wait* to see what Netflix did to Mattie...”

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Once the Revolutionary War had truly begun, France appeared, along with the Marquis de Lafayette, finally adding another NP to the cast. France, being true to life, flirted with American colonists left and right, no matter their gender.

“Wow! Show-France actually seems like the real France! Good job, Netflix! Although I’ve heard that France is only accurate because he actually sent messages to Netflix *threatening* them with a defamation lawsuit if they made him straight, haha!

I think this is one of the episodes that got a better rating actually? Probably because when you only have two NPs to focus on and not, like, 10, it’s a lot easier to write a script, even if it’s not even close to accurate,” Alfred laughed.

However, when the continental army came to Valley Forge, Alfred started curling into a ball.

“So I have heard—pretty much exclusively through memes—that practically everyone gets straightwashed in this show. Which on one hand, is obviously bad because straightwashing isn’t ok... but on the *other* hand, means that my super embarrassing crush on Prussia won’t be in this show! Yay! Cause honestly I think that’s just about too much cringe for this already pretty cringy show.”

In the show, Prussia appeared alongside Baron von Steuben. America shook his hand, welcoming him to Valley Forge. His white hair is clearly a wig and his red eyes are painfully obvious contact lenses.

Alfred’s phone chimed again. He laughed when he read the message, though it was more out of awkwardness than happiness.

“It’s from Prussia. He says ‘be glad this show is so bad at showing what really happened. It made you less of an awkward teenager than you really were.’ Thanks, Gilbert, *so* glad to hear that. I was a teenager with my first crush! Of course I was gonna be awkward AF! Oh, and Prussia also says that the actor looks nothing like him.”

Another flood of messages appeared in the chat, many of which were either asking Alfred for more details about his relationship with Prussia or teasing him about his first crush.

“Yeah chat, I know there’s no avoiding my incredibly cursed crush on Prussia. It’s written about in both his and François’ journals from the time! Plus I know it kinda became a meme in Germany ‘cause of those documentaries that attempted to do the impossible and tried to cover as much of Gilbert’s journals as they could. They’re only in German, but they’re, like, the highest quality documentary about NPs any country has made. The only problem with them is that the funnier parts of Gil’s diaries straight up became memes in Germany. In fact, Gil literally came to a UN meeting, something he hasn’t done *since he retired*, just so he could show me all the memes about his time at Valley Forge and translate them for me. Like, y’all, I was ready to *die* from embarrassment. I specifically remember that there was one with the Jackie-Chan-hands-to-the-head confusion and all it said was, like, ‘who falls in love with their drill instructor?’ in German.

Anyway, can we please move on, y’all? We still got like 20 more minutes in this episode.”

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The episode ended and the credits began rolling.

“Okay! We’ve made it through 2 outa 10 episodes, y’all! It’s been... okay so far. I still can’t decide if this is good-bad or *bad* bad. Cause I love those so-bad-they’re-good movies, and I don’t know if this counts or not. So far I think it’s just been mediocre? I’m *still* salty that they just cut out the States entirely. When I was little, I had to learn Dutch just so I could talk to New Netherlands, who eventually became New York. Who are they gonna have fighting during the Civil War? I have no idea...

But, we still have 8 more episodes to go so I will see y’all back here for episodes 3 and 4, same time tomorrow! Love y’all, bye for now!”

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By the next day, the audience had almost doubled, and Alfred's excitement along with it.

"Hey y'all! It's Alfred, aka the good ol' US of A!

Welcome back to part 2 of what I believe will be a 5-part series of watchalong streams! Glad to see everyone back and ready for more! Today is gonna be episodes 3 & 4. We are now post Revolution, so I'm wearing my bald eagle onesie! Now, I have been told that episode 3 has Canada and episode 4 has Mexico. At the same time, I have also been told that you can practically make a drinking game out of all the events that *should* have Canada or Mexico in them but *don't*. Now, I am not a pussy, so I am going to take that challenge, because unlike a certain Englishman, I can actually *hold* my liquor! So I've got a shot glass, and a bottle of Jack Daniels, and I'm ready to put my money where my mouth is.

So, let's get this shit show on the road!"

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The beginning of the United States and the creation of the country's government took up a portion of the episode. Alfred's connection to George Washington during the first president's terms in office were well documented and Netflix didn't have much wiggle room to screw things up without completely changing a portion of American history that many people were already familiar with.

After a few decades had passed, the War of 1812 began. The episode didn't show every single battle of the war, but it did show the fighting of many of the battles Alfred had been involved in.

"Really, Netflix? Chateauguay *and* Crysler's Farm? And still no Matthew? Those are the battles the Canadians are super proud of! Mattie lorded those over me for *years!*" Alfred exclaimed, slightly laughing all the while as he poured himself a fourth shot of whiskey. "Netflix, this a shameful lack of Canada in a war that really only Canadians even remember. You better count yourself lucky that I can't actually die of alcohol poisoning, 'cause by the time the war is over, I'm gonna be outta whiskey!"

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The end of the episode reached its dramatic climax with the burning of Washington DC in 1814. America ran from the burning White House, a literal fire burning in his chest. His heart was aflame, burning a scorching hole in his uniform jacket. The British soldiers setting fire to the building left him there to burn, but just as the music swelled and the British soldiers began marching away, the last one turned to face America.

It's Canada. Or rather, it's the same actor who plays America, but with a wig and violet contacts to make him look like America's twin brother.

"This is for York," Canada said, before turning and rejoining the British regiment as his brother succumbed to the fire burning through his chest.

“WHAT THE FUCK?! *THAT’S* CANADA?! Look, I get it, we’re identical twins, but this is just ridiculous! He’s just the same guy in a different costume!” Alfred laughed hysterically. “Plus, of all the times to introduce Canada, this is what you chose? He’s not Anakin Skywalker turning to the dark side! And he wasn’t even involved in this part of the war in the first place! This is Canada slander! And not the kind I’m usually okay with!”

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In between episodes, Alfred grabbed some snacks and a bottle of water, then answered some of the chat’s questions. The fourth episode focused on not just the Mexican-American war, but also Mexico’s history and centered around Mexico herself. The different phases of the Mexican War of Independence from Spain were very complicated and confusing since they had to be condensed to fit into a single episode, but they did include some short cameos from Spain.

“Is that Antonio? okay... I mean the guy they got to play England barely looks like him at all. This guy I can kinda see working? Same with Maria.”

Many major battles of the Mexican-American War were all included, and Alfred ended up taking 3 more shots, all within a few minutes of each other. After that, the complicated history of the war became a bit too much for Alfred’s growingly drunken state. His words were slurring noticeably by the end of the episode.

“Oh fuuuuuck you, Netflix! Why’s Maria *behind* the fron’ lines? She’s notta damsel in distress, she’s one’a the baddest bitches I know!

I think the creators a’ this show mighta gotta bit confused? Female nations’ve *always* fought on battlefields. Tha’s not a new develo’ment. So why no Mexico in tha’ Mexican-American War? Her name’s *in the title*! This’s even stupider than tha’ previous episode, the Canadian-War-withou’-any-Canada! Go fuck your stupid hist’ry, Netflix! We didn’t even *see* Texas, ‘n he was, like, tha’ reason for this whole war inna first place!”

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The episode ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, along with a flood of messages in the chat (read: dares) for Alfred to take a final shot to round out the number to 8. Alfred, being Alfred, gave into the peer pressure and took the final shot.

“Woo! okay, tha’s the enda this stream. We’ve gotten through four outa ten episodes now, so nex’ stream’ll be episodes 5 and 6. I know the nex’ episode’ll be on tha’ Civil War. Can’t wait ‘til they screw that incre’bly sensitive an’ impor’nt part of American hist’ry up. I shouldn’t talk abou’ tha’ Civil War drunk though. I’m *fuuuucked up* right now. I’mma grab a Gatorade and get some food or something, an’ pray I don’t getta hangover tomorrow. Love y’all, bye for now!”

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“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A!



Thanks to all y'all asking if I'm feeling better after yesterday. I did have a hangover this morning but I've been drinking a lot of water all day so I'm better now. Please drink responsibly.

Now today, we're gonna be watching episode 5, which is the Civil War episode. Now this is NOT a stream to debate about the Civil War itself, so I don't want to see people arguing in chat. I am concerned though, because someone told me to check the cast list on IMDB and it says that the guy who plays me also plays Canada (which was hilarious, by the way. That was a whole other level of Canada joke that I don't think I would ever be able to reach on my own) as well as the *Confederacy*. Which is... interesting. I'm hoping that that's some kind of... artistic interpretation? And not an attempt to actually show a real Nation Personification. Because that *didn't happen*. Period. End of story.

I think everyone watching this stream is already aware how NPs are born: people develop a shared sense of collective identity and poof, Nation is born. However, NPs that develop as a result of a civil war have a *whole other list* of things that have to happen for them to be... personified? Is that the right word? For them to... you know, gain a body.

But we don't have to get into that immediately. For now, let's start the episode and see where it takes us."

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The show admittedly did a good job contextualizing the war by showing and explaining the build up that led up to it. However, once the Union and Confederate armies were readying for war, Alfred got considerably upset.

"It still baffles me that they're showing *me* in the Union uniform! As if I'm gonna be able to go and fight! Oh, tell me they didn't have me actually fighting. I *couldn't*! I was practically incapacitated by migraines and I was fighting against a hostile new personality!"

Sure enough, at the Battle of Bull Run, America was put on the front lines. As the battle went poorly and the Union army began to panic and retreat, America happened to catch the eye of a certain someone on the other side of the battlefield who was holding the Confederacy's new flag.

It was... yet again the same actor who played America, just with different contacts to now make his eyes gray.

"ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!" Alfred yelled at the screen. "THIS IS EVEN *WORSE* THAN IN THE CANADA EPISODE! Okay, we're pausing this to have a little chat."

Alfred paused the episode, then sat back in his chair and took a deep breath. He then proceeded to give a small lecture explaining all the historical and political implications of the Confederacy having a Nation Personification with a physical body.

"This is wrong in *so many* ways. First of all, the fact that the Confederacy has a physical body implies *a lot*. Not only does that say that the Confederacy was *way* more powerful in

1861 than it really was, especially since the war had only *just* started, but it also implies that someone *recognized him* already!

NPs are connected to their country, so the different aspects of their bodies are affected by the state of that country. Y'all know me, I get a cold whenever the stock market drops significantly! In that same way, a country can't validate itself; it has to be recognized by other countries to gain that level of power. It's actually, weirdly, the only way that NPs are directly affected by other NPs! François once described it to me by saying 'I know *I* exist because my neighbors all recognize that *their* borders end where *I* begin.'

Plus, NPs born because of civil wars/revolutions are *extra* weird! Since they didn't start as a sub-nation or colony or whatever, they not only have to have significant national identity to be born from, but they also have to gain recognition from others, *just to gain a body*. Cause otherwise, like, what's the difference between a new Nation and just a rebellion? That's partly why it's so *fucking weird* that the Confederacy has a body! It means that someone recognized him as a sovereign nation! Which *no one* did! I mean Britain and France both called the Confederacy a 'belligerent,' which basically is like saying 'well, America's at war, but we're not gonna name *who* he's at war with,' cause they were both being assholes.

Before a civil war-born NP is recognized, they're just a *hella* painful migraine for the original country, because they're fighting against a violent and unpredictable new personality. 'Cause of... *him*, I spent the entirety of the Civil War *bedridden*.

Also, the fact that he's an *adult* already is *really* freaky! What, did he have a fully functioning government as soon as he popped up outta the ground? I don't think so! New country means new government, and new government means little itty-bitty NP!"

After finishing his rant, Alfred began scrubbing through the episode, skipping a few seconds at a time, then entire minutes.

"Oh no! Is this, like, the *entire* episode? This is just... all fictional bullshit!

Okay, you know what? Fuck this. We're skipping this episode because the entire thing is all lies. I don't wanna cut the stream super short though. Since we still have like 45 minutes in this episode, I'm gonna turn this into an impromptu AMA. Chat, feel free to ask me whatever you want. You can ask history questions; you can ask what my favorite video game is. As long as it's not a state secret, go nuts!"

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"How dare you! Superman ice cream is 100% a real flavor! It's one of the greatest things to ever come out of the Midwest and it's awesome!"

Alfred's phone alarm went off, signaling that the AMA was over.

"Oh! Ok, we're back on schedule! Time for the next episode, number 6. This is around Reconstruction and into the Gilded Age, I'm guessing? I mean the next *major* event is World War I, but that's a good fifty years away so I doubt we're skipping all the way there immediately."

The episode opened up at Ellis Island in the 1890s. Amongst a large crowd of Italians being processed, South Italy stood alone with a small pack slung over his back.

“Hey! It’s the decade I lived with Romano and Tolys! I actually really loved that time of my life. Business was booming, *millions* of immigrants were bringing cool new cultures to New York, constant shenanigans... It was super fun,” Alfred smiled. “*Please* let this episode be nothing but the three of us being stupid together.”

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South Italy joined America’s household, which also included Lithuania at the time. After some arguing, and not a small amount of yelling, South Italy was given a job as the household’s cook. A small montage showed the three Nations getting used to living with one another. South Italy made a habit of complaining about the others’ taste in food and subsequently began introducing the others to Southern Italian cuisine. However, while this behavior was accurate to the real NP, the actor (who claimed to be Italian-American but clearly did not speak a single word of the language) had a noticeably fake accent. It was *terrible* and immediately warranted the disgust of everyone in the audience of Italian heritage.

Alfred checked his phone and snorted. “Feli texted me. ‘*That’s* who they got to play Romano?! His pronunciation is... *eugh*.’”

A few minutes later, he received another text, this one making him laugh even harder. “This one’s from Romano: ‘The moron can’t even pronounce ‘pizza’ correctly. I swear, you Americans ruin my language every single time you speak it, you bastards.’

It’s not even exclusive to the Italian stuff either! I don’t think Tolys is watching—I mean, I haven’t gotten any messages from him yet—but believe me, the guy playing Lithuania just has, like, Generic Vaguely Eastern European Accent™. He doesn’t sound Lithuanian *at all!*”

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The three Nations spent the decade incredibly chaotically. A large number of their interactions were characterized with culture shock.

Both South Italy and Lithuania discovered their respective country’s immigrant neighborhoods and ingrained themselves. At one point, the three Nations were invited to a dinner in Little Italy, where a family had befriended South Italy. All three NPs ended up completely drunk by the end of the night, wandering back through the city while completely hammered and somehow, miraculously, made their way home.

“Why are so many chats asking if this was illegal? Someone even just asked in chat: ‘did you guys ever make your own illegal booze?’ This isn’t Prohibition, guys. You’re about two decades early; that’s during the 20s.

This kinda follows a pattern I’ve seen before though? I’ve seen people call me, Tolys, and Romano ‘the Roaring 20s Roommates,’ but that’s not true. By the 20s, the guys had already

left. Tollys was busy *being independent* and Romano had gotten called back to Italy when World War I started. So they never experienced Prohibition-Era America.

*However*, New York and I did once try and make booze in the bathtub to try and make some quick money after the stock market crashed, but we fucked it up. It was *too* strong and stripped the varnish from the tub. *And then*, New York had the nerve to blame *me*! As if we hadn't come up with the idea *together*! Asshole..."

Faster than any other message Alfred had gotten during the stream, a text came in from the Empire State himself.

"It's New York. He says 'it *was* your fault, cause you fucked up the ratio and made it way too strong, you moron.' Oh, shut up!"

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The episode ended with America's roommates leaving at the end of the 1800s.

"Well, they skipped the Spanish-American War entirely. On one hand, it only lasted like 4 months and it kinda gets forgotten about often. But on the other hand, American badass *Teddy fucking Roosevelt* fought in it, which makes it automatically awesome. I also got custody of Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines because of it, which is an important development.

But apparently those things don't matter 'cause we're moving on! We're officially more than half way through this show now! Thank god! I'm guessing the next stream will finally be the World Wars. Maybe one episode each? Unless they have an episode for the interwar period; that might change things.

I love streaming with y'all, but I gotta say: I can't wait for this series to be over. This show really is getting worse and worse. That Civil War episode was *especially* bad. I think they did have historical researchers on the writing team, but I'm getting the feeling that they got paid to sit around and do nothing just so Netflix could *say* that they did their research.

But, we're outta time! I'll see you guys next stream for episodes 7 & 8! Love y'all, bye for now!"

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"Hey y'all! It's Alfred, aka the good ol' US of A!

We're back! We've made it to the 20th century! I've got my Rosie the Riveter shirt on, which, yes, I know was from the *Second* World War, not the first, but I've been told that the episodes are pretty much back-to-back. Episode 7 is World War I and Episode 8 is World War II. Which honestly works out well from a storytelling point of view 'cause the second war happened *because* of the treaty that ended the first war.

So let's begin! Time to dive back into this shit show!"

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The episode began in Canada, at a military recruitment office. Long lines of Canadian men were lining up to enlist in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, including the Canadian Personification himself.

“Oh my god! Do we actually get more of Mattie in this show? Well isn’t this a pleasant surprise!

It’s so ridiculous that it’s the same actor, though. This guy has played, what, three different characters now? And I do say *characters* and not people, cause this whole series is playing fast and loose with history.”

Canada was sent overseas with his men. Since the NP hadn’t been trained in modern warfare yet, he also had to go through basic training. He and the Canadian regiment were then sent to Ypres, Belgium.

The Second Battle of Ypres saw the Canadians defending against chlorine gas for the first time. Canada and his men had to wear handkerchiefs soaked with urine over their noses and mouths to counteract the gas.

“There is a childish part of me that wants to laugh ‘cause Mattie had to wear pee-rags on his face, but the other part of me wants to scream. How the fuck did Netflix get it correct that Ypres was battle that saw the first usage of gas, to the point that the allied forces had to use piss-soaked rags to protect themselves from this brand-new type of weapon, but then also put *tanks* on the battlefield?! Tanks wouldn’t even be *invented* for another few years, Netflix! Even amateur history buffs know that!”

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The episode continued on to showcase Canada’s participation in WWI, if with the kind of extreme incompetence that would drive a history expert insane. Together with the other Nations of the Allied Forces, Canada fought against the Germans for four brutal years. France, Belgium, and the British brothers all had cameos in the episode.

“Yet again, the choice to *not* show any States or Provinces is biting Netflix in the ass. Vimy Ridge was so important for Canada ‘cause it was the first time that all the Canadian divisions fought *together!* That’s not very obvious when you can’t see all of Canada’s provinces up there with him!”

Germany appeared multiple times, attacking viciously from the other side of the battlefield. The actor who played him *did* somewhat resemble the real NP, but his behavior in battle was far more violent than in reality.

“Jeez, so that’s why there are so many memes of ‘Straight Germany.’ He doesn’t look *that* bad... I do remember seeing a ‘straight Germany doesn’t exist; he can’t hurt you’ meme though. I’m guessing more of that will be in the next episode during the WWII parts.

Also, I think they might have confused Germany with Prussia there. Ludwig isn’t *nearly* as trigger-happy as his brother. Gilbert was pretty much *born* to fight. I always found it hilarious that lots of medieval battle reports from human generals who didn’t know who Gil was called

him a *demon*, ‘cause they didn’t know how else to describe the battle-crazy, immortal albino tearing through their armies.”

A minute later, Alfred got a text. He snorted, unlocking his phone and simply holding up the screen to the camera. It showed a text from Gilbert that said: “Because I’m AWESOME!!!”

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At the end of the war, on November 11, 1918, Canada and the other Allies, including America, came together to celebrate the armistice. During the celebration, a small French girl approached Canada and handed him a poppy. The chat was filled with ‘awww’s.

“And now for the Treaty of Versailles,” Alfred interrupted. “Which would fuck over the Central Powers so badly that they would directly lead us into World War II. ‘Cause England and France *really* had revenge on the brain. But this was also when the League of Nations was created! Which I annoyingly wasn’t allowed to join even though it was created by *my* president. Thanks a lot, isolationist Congressmen!”

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The next episode got increasingly lazy, intercutting real war footage between acted scenes and making the stupidest mistakes of historical accuracy. The show also returned to its habit of focusing only on America, with the other Allies mostly playing supporting roles. Therefore, it started with America’s entrance to the war.

“The war didn’t begin with Pearl Harbor, Netflix! And Japan himself was *definitely* not a kamikaze pilot! I don’t know if Kiku is watching this, but I do know that he loves to see Japan in other countries’ movies and tv, so, Kiks! Please don’t watch this show! It’s *hella* bad! I don’t know if the dialogue is *as* bad as the Pearl Harbor movie with Ben Affleck, but it’s equally as inaccurate, *that’s* for sure!”

The American participation in the European theater was equally as inaccurate, with a clear bias towards showing America as the main driving force against the Nazis.

“Uh, guys, the Americans weren’t the *only* ones storming the beaches at Normandy. Britain and Canada were there too! Also, as epic and awesome of a hero as I am, I wasn’t fighting both Germany *and* Prussia at the same time. I don’t even think Prussia was on the Western Front in the first place! I’m pretty sure he and Russia spent the entirety of the war beating the ever-loving *shit* outta each other on the Eastern Front.

Prussia and Russia... Ugh, I hate that their names rhyme. They’re literally only one letter away! This is why I prefer just calling him Gilbert, haha!”

Once his name was mentioned, the Prussian was quick to text Alfred.

“Gilbert: ‘I hate you. I spent centuries trying not to think about that and now you put it in my brain again. Our names don’t rhyme in German and that’s all that matters to me!’ Wait, so then what was Prussia called in German?”

...

Gilbert, I have no idea how to read that.”

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The Allies were shown as brave war heroes against the overdramatized and comically villainous Personifications of the Axis Powers. While their governments were indeed committing brutal atrocities during the war, the NPs themselves were not monsters. The show conveniently left out any of the times that Germany and Prussia were struck with immobilizing pain because of the suffering of victims of the Holocaust. In reality, Hitler had specifically put his country’s Personifications on the front lines so that the two would be distracted by the war and kept unaware of the concentration camps. The brothers only discovered the horrific brutality their country was responsible for when their citizens were made aware of the camps, and by then it was far too late.

The show, however, did not seem to care about reality. The portrayal of the German NP was far too violent and aggressive, so much so that he would physically slap North Italy away whenever the Mediterranean Nation tried to drape himself over Germany’s back or shoulders.

“Jeez, they *really* wanted those two to seem straight. Or at least Ludwig. I wasn’t there for these exact moments behind enemy lines, obviously, but this just feels *so* wrong. Even *before* the war, those two were already getting interested in each other.”

And yet, the show made the choice to incorporate an event from real life, when Germany personally taught Italy how to use the new model of rifles the Italian armies would be using. Germany stood close to Italy, physically maneuvering Italy into the correct stance. Despite attempting to remove the romance between Germany and Italy from the story, the subtext of the scene remained.

“Oh come on! Even if they weren’t dating in real life, this is such a ‘now kiss’ moment!” Alfred yelled at the screen, his sentiment echoed wholeheartedly by the chat. Then Alfred’s phone chimed, signaling that someone had tweeted at him. He paused the episode.

“Dude! Germany actually tweeted a response about the show! I’m guessing Gilbert showed him a scene or two? I mean, I doubt Ludwig actually watched the show himself; he has higher standards. Hold on, I gotta read this in my ‘serious Germany’ voice.

‘America, I am very confused by your *Nations Reality* show.’

Oh *buddy*, just ‘cause it’s made in America doesn’t make it *mine*. Believe me, I am 100% disowning this shit show.

‘Why is it that American shows about history get easily researchable facts incorrect? My relationship with Italy has been public knowledge for many decades now.’

Lud, oh you sweet naive little boy, it’s not a matter of historical accuracy. They just *don’t care*.”

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The episode ended with the atomic bombings. Despite being back in Hawaii, America somehow was able to sense the explosion.

“This is like in *Empire of the Sun* where they somehow can see the atomic blast all the way from Shanghai, despite it being scientifically impossible. Like, why would *I* be able to sense the bombings? They weren’t on my land! But I don’t entirely blame them for that one. Humans always seem to both overestimate *and* underestimate Nation powers in different ways.

But, what else is new with this mess of a show? It’s really just one more drop in the bucket of things this show has gotten ridiculously wrong. Thankfully, we’re 80% of the way through! There’s only two episodes left, which we’ll watch next stream! I’m guessing they’ll cover the Cold War, but just *how much* of the Cold War is the real question. It’s a full 45 years of content, so I think this’ll easily be the episode with the most important events skipped.

We’ll just have to see! And I will see y’all next stream! Love y’all, bye for now!”

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“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A!

We made it! We’re finally at the finale! We’re finally done with this train wreck! Although, I am kinda sad that this is the final stream, just because I love chatting with y’all about all the mistakes. But, all good things—or so-bad-they’re-good things—must come to an end eventually. I’ve got my final cool history t-shirt on. This one’s Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start the Fire.” I don’t know how many people watching this stream will get the reference, but I don’t care; it’s the perfect Cold War shirt! There’s no way they can fit all of the Cold War into two episodes though. This is gonna be a *mess*, even more so than any of the previous episodes.

Oh! Before I forget, I gotta mention the tweet that Feliciano put out *specifically* calling out Netflix! We talked about the show’s noticeable lack of romance between Nations during the last stream and *Germany*, of all people, tweeted at me to talk about it. So then Italy... You know what, I’ll just put it on screen real quick so everyone knows what I’m talking about.”

The tweet in question was from @FelicianoilVeneziano. The caption simply read ‘hey @Netflix?’ and contained nothing but a photo of the Italian and German NPs locked in a kiss. The angle was slightly awkward, clearly taken on Italy’s phone while held out in front of the two. It already had thousands of likes.

“This is awesome!” Alfred smiled. “It’s also hilarious how surprised Germany looks! I’m guessing Feli didn’t tell him what was happening before he took the picture. Oh, I didn’t see the retweets, haha!”

The top retweet was from @BundesrepublikDeutschland. It read: “Coming in for kisses at literally any time of day is normal for Feliciano. Coming in with his phone angled like he was going to take a selfie *isn’t*.”



“So yeah, just wanted to show that to y’all. Now, it’s time for the grand finale!”

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The episode opened up in Korea, in the air. Above the peninsula, America and South Korea were in a dog fight, fighting together against a North Korean pilot. Later, in 1953, America was overlooking a table with a map of the peninsula, standing next to South Korea. On the other side of the table, the Chinese NP stood. All the while, the North Korean politicians debated with their Southern counterparts. Leaning against the far wall of the room, almost hidden behind the large crowd of humans, Russia stood, silently observing everyone.

When the debates were over and the Korean Armistice was signed, China left to join Russia at the edge of the room so they could wait for the humans to conclude their business. Russia attempted to covertly put his arm around China, but the Asian Nation rebuked him.

“Oh yeah! This was the decade that those two were practically attached at the hip, though I’m guessing Netflix is just gonna erase it from the books. Anyone who’s curious, look up ‘Sino-Soviet propaganda.’ It’s *incredibly* gay, and a lot of them feature Ivan and Yao in really... shall we say, suggestive poses? They’re all photos of, like, a gay couple who’s really excited that they own a farm together. Until the Chinese rejected Soviet cooperation, those two were *really* close.

I also remember, at one of these meetings in Korea, maybe it was a different meeting than this one, but I know afterward, I turned to Yong-Soo and I was just like ‘God, they’re both so fucking hot’ and Yong-Soo was like, ‘why is your taste in men so dangerous?’”

A few seconds later, Alfred got a text.

“Mathias?! I didn’t realize you were watching this!” Alfred laughed. “Well, Denmark just texted me. He just said, ‘I think you have a type. It’s intimidating older men.’ Thanks for the analysis, dude. *Real* helpful.”

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With the announcement of Sputnik in 1957, another meeting was called between the US and the USSR. Eisenhower was there to meet with Khrushchev, but the Nations were relatively free to talk to each other as they pleased. As cliché as it was to describe the Cold War with a chess game, the two Nations sat down for a game of chess anyway. There was an awkward moment when their hands touched while moving the pieces. Russia lifted his eyes to meet America’s with a slight smile, but America yanked his hand away with a frown.

“What are they doing? They’re making it look like Russia was coming on to me, but really, that’s the *opposite* of what really happened! I was super impressed by Sputnik, and I was practically *begging* Ivan to tell me more about space and what his space program was like, and I was crushing on him *super* hard. Meanwhile, Ivan was like ‘you foolish little Nation, you have no idea what you are doing.’ Not in a patronizing way, but like in a pitying way? He didn’t want to fight, or continue the arms race, but I think he also felt bad for me. In like a, ‘you have no idea how hard it is to be a superpower’ kinda way. That didn’t stop me from finding him hot though.”

The two talked about the state of the USSR while they played. De-Stalinization had revealed to the world the inner workings of the Soviet Union up until that point, and America argued that the entire system was flawed and based on lies. To which Russia responded: "Lies are like meatloaf; they crumble when picked up. The Soviet Union is not nearly as fragile." America then quipped: "They must have pretty shitty meatloaf in Russia."

Alfred almost choked on his popcorn, he was laughing so hard. "Was there a writers' strike or something, or did Netflix just have this episode written by an AI? That was easily the worst line in this entire show, *by far*."

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The episode ended with John F. Kennedy's assassination. America was in shock, completely unaware of the chaos going on around him as the Secret Service led him to safety. Once America was back in Washington D.C., he and the vice president made a beeline for the Red Phone. Russia was quick to pick up the other end and assure America that the Soviets were not at fault for the president's death. He also called Alfred 'Fedya' as a term of endearment. America then angrily slammed the phone down.

"First of all, the 'Red Phone' wasn't an actual phone, despite practically *every* movie showing it that way. It was a typed message encoder that then had to be translated on both sides when the message came through. More like texting, but on a typewriter and incredibly long-range for the time. Second of all, Russia never called me 'Fedya.' I think that's actually a nickname for a different name? I do remember that he called me 'Alushka' once, which is apparently a nickname for any name that starts with A-L, but I was so confused that I just said 'That's not my name. My name's Alfred.' That was also when I first learned that the nickname for Ivan is 'Vanya.'

Also, yes chat, I see all the memes you're sending! I think we have enough memes now! I normally say that there can never be enough memes, but this is too many memes! You're literally slowing down the chat's loading speed!

Is it really true that this show got banned in Russia for the gayness? That's ironic, since most people I saw online talking about gayness in this show were talking about it being mostly straightwashed. It's both too gay, and not gay enough at the same time! Although, of the memes y'all've been posting, I think the best one I've seen so far is that one of the guy pressing two buttons at once, with one that says 'making Russia gay to piss off the Russian government' and the other that says 'making America straight to satisfy homophobic Americans.' That's my best guess as to what was happening in Netflix's writing room."

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The final episode started with the moon landing. Skipping ahead by a few years, America was now at NASA, watching from the control room as the first astronauts landed on the moon. There were literal tears in his eyes, causing the footage of Neil Armstrong to be reflected off of them. In Moscow, Russia and the Soviet higher-ups were watching the same broadcast. Russia threw the glass he was drinking from at the wall in a fit of anger, smashing it.

“I think they skipped over the Vietnam War just so they could focus more on the Space Race? Which, honestly, tracks. I *too* tried my best to ignore the absolute disaster that was the Vietnam War by distracting myself with space! I spent a few years in Vietnam, but ‘cause I’m an NP, I could come home earlier than the troops themselves could. That was the only time I ever implemented the GI Bill for *myself*, so I could study astrophysics, so I could work for NASA.

Working for NASA also meant that I no longer had to watch rocket launches in Florida from outside the gates. Florida and I used to hang out in the swamps around the Kennedy Space Center so we could watch the rocket launches, which got annoying cause there are alligators *everywhere* down there. Never underestimate Florida though. She’s got more muscle on her than you would think just by looking, and she has and will wrestle ‘gators for fun.”

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In the early 70s, more and more of the tension between the two superpowers melted away as detente diplomacy became more popular. America and Nixon visited Moscow, and then Russia and Brezhnev visited D.C. the following year.

“We did more than just sign treaties at those meetings, if you know what I mean,” Alfred said with a wink. “Nixon and I also went to China that year, but Yao was, uh, much less interested.”

Alfred got a text a minute later. “Romano? Oh yeah, that makes sense. It just says: ‘That guy has ridiculously high standards. Anyone less than an empire is not good enough. The first time I met China, I thought he was a girl, so I tried flirting with him. His response was just, ‘Your grandfather was much taller. Maybe try again when you’re done growing.’ Ouch! That’s rough, buddy.”

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In 1975, the Apollo-Soyuz joint mission saw America begging Gerald Ford to be allowed to join the astronauts on the mission. By justifying it as a diplomatic end to the Space Race, America was thrilled to finally get permission. When the two space stations docked and the air locks were opened, both the human commanders and their respective Nations crossed the border to shake hands. It was the first scene in the show that saw America return Russia’s smile, if only in a friendly manner.

“Being in space was *easily* the coolest thing I have ever done! Even cooler than winning my own independence! The only problem was that it was also easily the *sickest* I had ever gotten. Ivan and I both felt like we were dying after a few days and we both had to be sent back down early. Turns out, Nation Personifications can’t be too far from the Earth itself for too long or we start to, uh, fall apart.

Though, in the few days we did have in space, we did get to do some *crazy* awesome shit in zero gravity! Feel free to imagine whatever you want with that information.”

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America also accompanied his next president, Jimmy Carter, to Vienna in 1979 to sign another treaty with the Soviets. Famously, Brezhnev kissed Carter on the cheek, which surprised and slightly appalled the Americans.

“Most of the humans in the room were kinda uncomfortable with Brezhnev’s love of kissing people. But, *I*, being as smooth and suave as a middle schooler, leaned over to Ivan and asked him ‘Should we kiss now?’ and Ivan just said ‘Maybe later.’

I just remember being super embarrassed the next day ‘cause Austria came up to me, all haughty and irritated, and he said ‘If I had known you two would be so loud, I would have housed you in a different wing of the building.’”

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The last scene of the episode once again skipped ahead by many years, going from 1979 to 1989. America and Germany were at a bar in West Berlin. The announcement that East Berlin would be opening its gates was on both of their minds, keeping them up and about late into the night.

“They skipped over, like, *all* of the 80s?! This is so stupid! They tried to shove 40+ years into two episodes, and had to skip over almost 20 years just to do so. We’re all the way at the fall of the Berlin Wall already! They better show that super adorable hug between the Beilschmidt brothers when both of them were crying happy tears. If that isn’t shown, this whole scene is bullshit.”

In the middle of their conversation, Germany suddenly froze, clearly sensing something that America couldn’t. Leaving his beer and belongings behind, Germany ran out of the bar like a man possessed. America rushed to catch up, following him through the city all the way to the wall, where a crowd of West Berliners were watching their Eastern counterparts cross the border for the first time in 28 years. As the people began to physically break down the wall, the NPs joined in. A human handed Germany a sledgehammer to use, but America simply punched the wall with his bare hands. With his superhuman strength, a single blow was enough to punch a hole in the concrete.

Through the hole, America caught a glimpse of Prussia (who had been redesignated as East Germany) and Russia. The Soviet Nation was clearly exhausted, getting occasionally jostled by eager East Berliners trying to push through the crowd. However, after a human passed through America’s line of vision and temporarily blocked his view of Russia, he didn’t reappear. He was gone. He had simply vanished.

“Wha- NO!” Alfred shouted. “This isn’t *The Sixth Sense*, Netflix! He’s not a ghost! He didn’t just fade away! This doesn’t even make sense from a metaphorical standpoint! He didn’t *die* when the wall came down! Russia’s still alive *today*! Did he Hop? Nations can’t Hop outside of their own borders, Netflix! He did *not* just Hop from East Germany all the way to Russia!”

The episode ended with America smiling at the spot Russia disappeared from before turning away from the wall to rejoice with the German brothers.

“That’s it?! There’s no other explanation?” Alfred couldn’t help but laugh at the absurdity. “Well, I guess it fits! Stupid shitty ending for a stupid shitty show!”

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After he stopped laughing, Alfred paused the show, which was now just playing the end credits.

“We’ve finally made it! It’s over! Oh my god, this was a wild ride! I’m both glad and sad that it’s over. This show is what happens when no one bothers to fact-check *anything*. I would definitely put this show in the so-bad-it’s-good category. It’s the kind of show that you want to watch drunk or high or just with other friends so you can shit on it together. And I gotta say, I really loved streaming it with y’all! You guys are great and your memes made this show even funnier than it already was.

I know the second season of this stupid series has already been greenlit, and I gotta ask y’all: how the *hell* did that happen? I have no idea. But when season two comes out, if y’all would want to do this all over again, maybe I can watch season two? Let me know if y’all’re interested. Didn’t Netflix say season two would be more Europe-centered? Maybe I can convince some of my European friends to join the fun. And by that, I mean we’ll probably end up getting drunk just so we can stomach it. But I know at least a few of the guys will be *totally* down for that.

But for now, thank y’all so much for joining me! This series of streams was super fun and I hope we can do this again sometime in the future. Love y’all, bye for now!”

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In the end, America’s review of the show actually became more popular than the show itself. The amount of views on each video skyrocketed, so much so that they actually ended up with more views altogether than *Nations Reality* itself got, which in turn just brought more humiliation to Netflix. However, that didn’t convince Netflix to stop production. Months later, *Nations Reality* season 2 was released.

And the drama started all over again.

## Chapter End Notes

I do have to admit, some of the headcanons my friends and I have come from super popular hetalia fics that we both love. Like [\(Un\)civil](#) by Rebelsandtherest for the Civil War and [A Human Invention](#) by FindingSchmomo for some events in the Cold War. I wouldn’t say the *entire* fic is inspired by these, but certain scenes are cause they are canon in my brain.

Let me know if you want season 2!

## Season 2

### Chapter Notes

It's finally here! And technically on time! I did say that I would get this out by December! ~~ignore that I meant to get this out as a Christmas gift~~

I got super distracted by a different fic I was writing, plus I had SO MUCH RESEARCH to do for this. But it's finally done after so much effort, so I hope you enjoy.

Merry Christmas, happy new year, and happy birthday to me.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### **I REACT TO NATIONS REALITY SEASON 2 (with friends!)**

10.7M views • Streamed 5 days ago

**AlfredFREEDOMJones** 30.2M

“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A!” Alfred greeted. Unlike the previous livestreams, he wasn’t alone this time. An assortment of Nations were spread throughout Alfred’s living room: Gilbert and Mathias were sitting alongside Alfred on a long sofa, while Romano sat by himself off to the side in the loveseat. Romano just pouted, slouching in his seat with his arms crossed. He was clearly upset just to be there.

“It’s been a few months!” said Alfred. “How’re y’all doing? I am super excited to be back! They finally released another season of this garbage!”

“One that focuses on Nations other than yourself, for once,” Mathias laughed.

“Yeah, they had said that season one was gonna be North America, but it was pretty much just ‘Oops, all America.’ But this season’s different! This is season two: European boogaloo! And because I only really got involved in European history starting with, like, World War I, I invited some of my European friends here to help me tear this thing a new one! The guy with the blond hair and the red shirt is Mathias, aka Denmark.”

“Hej!” Mathias greeted with a smile and a wave.

“And the guy with the white hair is Gilbert, aka... Gil, what title do you even use nowadays?” Alfred asked.

“Just call me Prussia. Unless you want to use the full ‘Nation formerly known as East Germany, previously the Free State of Prussia.’ But that name’s way too long and totally unawesome.”

“Gotcha. Well, these two are gonna be with me for the whole season!”

“Yay!” They all cheered.

“We’re also gonna be drinking a good amount throughout these streams, ‘cause I dunno how else we’re gonna be able to make it through 10 hours of this garbage,” Alfred said.

“What, are you just gonna ignore the fact that I’m here, you bastard?” Romano complained.

“I was just about to introduce you, dude! Don’t get so upset!” Alfred chuckled. “Mr. Grumpy over there is Romano, aka South Italy. He’s our guest for the first episode because it’s all about the fall of the Roman Empire, and no one knows Rome like Romano does.”

“I would think not!” Romano exclaimed. “He was my grandfather and I was chosen to be his heir, out of all the Italian Nations!”

“Good! Then you should be able to point out everything the show got wrong!” Mathias joked as he cracked open a can of beer. Romano just rolled his eyes and accepted the glass of wine Alfred was handing him.

Alfred hit play, and the episode began.

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Towards the end of the Roman Empire’s existence, the Personification of the Roman Empire stood atop a hill, overlooking the city of Rome. The city had been sacked twice now and was a giant mess, but its citizens remained. Rome himself was a reflection of that: though he was visibly weakened, he was still alive. While the average Nation Personification appears to be a young adult, Rome looked to be in his 50s or even 60s. He also appeared to have lost weight; he didn’t have the muscles of a gladiator that he usually is portrayed with.

He was also being played by a familiar actor.

“Wait,” Alfred said. “Isn’t that the same guy who played Romano in season one? Just in old person makeup?”

The guys on the sofa burst into laughter. Romano just looked baffled.

“I don’t look *that* much like Nonno! Why would they cast him as both of us?!”

“Hey, it could be worse,” Gilbert said. “It could be like the guy who played America *and* Canada *and* the Confederacy.”

“Oh please no,” Romano groaned.

“I mean, Matt and I are *identical* twins, so I understand where they were coming from with that,” Alfred chimed in. “But Romano and his family don’t have *nearly* as close a resemblance. This is just ridiculous!”

“They better not have me and Feli played by that same guy,” Romano said.



“Also, did no one notice that it didn’t even give a real date?” Gilbert pointed out. “All of season one had specific dates for everything, but here they couldn’t even say what year it is?”

“That actually does make sense,” Romano said. “After the Goths took over the Italian peninsula, no one was keeping records of what happened to Nonno. No one actually knows the exact year he died because there’s no record of it. We assume he made it at least another century just because of our memories of seeing him when we were kids, but that’s all we have to go off of.”

The Roman Empire eventually descended the hill and walked through the vandalized city until he reached a specific villa. The inside was practically empty; all the furniture had been either stolen or destroyed. However, the walls remained untouched, and on the far wall of the villa was a carving that showed a map of the known world. All that had once been a part of the Roman Empire was painted in red, but some spots had been marked with black.

Suddenly, the scene changed to show the city of Venice, which still had yet to become a true city. At the moment it was only a cluster of buildings in the middle of the lagoon. Splashing around playfully in the shallower water of the lagoon was a small child, barely older than a toddler, with curly, rich auburn hair and amber eyes.

The scene then returned to Rome in the abandoned villa. He had just sensed the Personification of Venice for the first time. Now that he knew Venice had its own Personification, Rome marked the spot where Venice was on the map with black paint.

Rome contemplated the map for a while. Each time he focused on an area that had been marked in black, his mind traveled to that area and showed the Nation that corresponded to it. The Iberian peninsula had been taken over by the Visigoths. Post-Roman Britain still had yet to form the kingdoms that would one day unite to become England and Wales. The Germanic tribes were all over the place, with none of them yet resembling any modern countries. Far to the north, the Scandinavian tribes still had yet to even become the infamous Vikings. To the east, the Byzantine Empire was sitting on a purple sofa, lounging gracefully.

“Wait, how is he able to sense these places?” Romano asked. “He’s already lost all that territory at this point. And Scandinavia was never even a Roman province!”

“Romano, this is the beauty of this show,” Alfred joked. “It goes out of its way to be wrong just so it can look cool.”

After catching the audience up to the current state of Europe’s Nations, Rome left the villa and Hopped away. He reappeared in the center of Naples. Without ever needing to ask anyone for directions or aid, the aging Nation was able to find the Personification of the city. It was another young boy with curly hair, though this one had darker locks and fierce hazel eyes.

“Come, my child,” Rome said to Naples. “You have a new brother, born of the lagoon. It is time we find him and bring him home.”

The two set off on a journey north to Venice. When they arrived in the lagoon, the two made a bee-line directly for the Personification of Venice. Rome introduced himself and Naples to

the newest member of their family.

Venice was thrilled to meet others of his kind. Naples was... less than thrilled to see his grandfather's attention being monopolized by someone other than himself.

"Dude, they nailed your personality. Even as a little kid!" America laughed.

"Shut the fuck up," Romano grumbled.

Now with both of the Italies in tow, the Roman Empire brought his grandchildren back with him to the capital. For the next few decades, the family of three lived peacefully in the city, but their peace was finally brought to an end when the Goths invaded the city and sacked it, forcing the remaining inhabitants to leave. In the chaos, Rome grabbed his grandsons and sent them back to their home territories in hopes that at least one of them would survive.

The episode ended with Rome standing alone in the villa once again, the map on the wall completely black. He then turned to dust and faded away, and the number 476 showed up on the screen.

"What?! He didn't die in 476! The Roman Empire was taken over by the Ostrogoths, but Nonno lived for another seventy years, *at least!* He hung around until 546, when Totila invaded!" Romano yelled at the screen, making the others laugh.

"Netflix does *not* care," Alfred explained through a laughing fit. "Accurate history will always be replaced by dramatic but inaccurate endings if it makes for better TV. That's just how Netflix rolls, bro!"

"Hey, at least the episode's over," Mathias reminded them. "Now there won't be any more Ancient Rome to be fucked up."

"Which means I don't have to be here any more?" Romano asked.

"Yes, Romano, you can leave now if you really want to," Alfred said.

"Finally!" Romano shouted, jumping out of his chair. "This show is such garbage. I'm out of here!"

"Thanks for being here for the first episode, at least! You can take the wine with you if you want,"

Alfred handed him the bottle, which Romano angrily snatched.

"Good, 'cause I wasn't gonna ask. I'm taking it with me."

"Love you too, Romano."

"Fuck off, you bastard."

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Unlike the first episode, the second episode provided them with the time and place of the action: Acre, The Holy Land, in the year 1200. The scene took place in a medieval hospital, where Christian pilgrims were being cared for by the various monastic knightly orders. Amongst a large crowd of knights and physicians, two ten-year-old boys were caring for a third. The two providing care were dressed in the uniforms of the Knights Hospitaller and Knights Templar respectively. They were slathering aloe all over the third boy, who had very white hair and was dressed in the uniform of the Teutonic Knights. He was *very* sunburnt.

Gilbert almost spilled his beer, bouncing on the couch with excitement. “That’s me! Little baby me!”

Mathias chuckled. “What the hell happened to you? You look like a raw chicken.”

“I’m albino and I was living much closer to the equator than I do nowadays. I only needed to be outside for like 20 minutes before I burned. That’s why Ezekiel is giving me the stink-eye: ‘cause he had told me multiple times already not to go out without something to provide shade and yet I did anyway.”

“Which one was Ezekiel?”

“The brunette one, in the black outfit. He was the Knights Hospitaller. He’s actually still alive! He became Malta a few centuries later. He’s also the only Nation I know with a medical degree. I mean, all three of us were trained in medicine back then, but I didn’t keep up with modern developments in medicine the way he did.”

“Who’s the other kid?” Alfred asked.

“The other one was the Knights Templar. His name was Gabriel.”

“What happened to him?” Alfred asked.

“Uh... Bad things,” Gilbert cringed. He didn’t elaborate any further.

The episode followed the three knightly orders around the Holy Land. It became increasingly obvious as time passed that the Teutonic Order had a particular fascination with the Templar Order. The Templar Order had been gifted with a beautiful singing voice, and would often sing hymns to lead mass or to convince people to convert. The Teutonic Order was absolutely captivated by his angelic voice and hung onto his every song with the passion of a ten-year-old with his first crush.

“You liked him, didn’t you,” Alfred grinned, less a question and more of a statement.

“He was really pretty!” Gilbert agreed. “And he was just a super nice person. He was charitable and beautiful and humble... and rich. He was actually the person who gave me my first diary! Which was a really big gesture because writing materials were *really* expensive back then.”

A decade passed without much change. The three ‘miracle children,’ as the Grandmasters called them (since they were immortal like Nations yet had no land to draw their eternal lives

from) spent their days like monks, while occasionally being called to arms to defend pilgrims from non-Christians. However, in 1211, the Teutonic Order was summoned to Hungary to defend the Burzenland, so the Teutonic Order said goodbye to his friends and left for Europe.

At the Hungarian royal court, while the Grandmaster of the Order was introduced to the King of Hungary, their respective Nation Personifications were introduced to each other as well. The Teutonic Order, attempting to look more important and powerful than he was—as all ten-year-olds do—introduced himself by giving out his full title in Latin: Ordo domus Sanctae Mariae Theutonicorum Hierosolymitanorum. To the Teutonic Order's mortification, Hungary considered this name too long and pompous and shortened it to simply "Maria."

Alfred and Mathias found this hilarious. Gilbert attempted to bury his face in the couch cushions.

"Gil, *please* tell me that's historically accurate," Alfred begged, tugging on Gilbert's shirt.

"So far this whole episode has been accurate," Gilbert whined. "I think they're just pulling straight from my diaries."

"Awesome!" Mathias giggled.

"NO IT'S NOT!" Gilbert yelled.

The Teutonic Knights then insisted that he and Hungary were now allies, and therefore close enough to use their human names with each other, never mind the fact that they had only just met. The two then re-introduced themselves, as the knight as Gisilbert and the kingdom as Endre.

"This is before Hungary realized...?" Mathias trailed off, leaving his question implied. Gilbert nodded.

"She figured it out eventually. Some time in the 1400s or so."

The Teutonic Knights defended Hungary from invaders, but then were kicked out themselves after trying to start a state of their own in 1225. After that, they launched the Prussian Crusade in order to convert the Baltic peoples to Christianity. The episode ended with the Teutonic Knights killing the Personification of Baltic Prussia and taking the land for himself. He was now a true Nation Personification, not just a monastic order of knights.

"I think that's the end of the episode, so that's that for today's stream," Alfred said. "What do y'all think so far?"

"I think they might have a leg up on historical accuracy, but it seems like it's only for the episodes with Gil in them," Mathias said. "Oh, sorry, I meant *Maria*."

"Don't even start with that. I'm still able to kick your ass if I want to," Gilbert glared at him as he cracked open another can of beer.

"No ass-kicking on the couch!" Alfred ordered. "It's already small enough. There's no room for sufficient ass-kicking."

“True,” Gilbert chuckled, sipping his beer. “But yeah, first episode was really pulling stuff out of their ass. Second episode was much better, both history-wise and character-wise.”

“Oh shut up, you attention whore!” Alfred laughed, giving Gilbert a light punch on the arm. “We’ll just have to see how much more of you they have. Whereas last season was mostly chronological, people online have said that this season is more focused on like one Nation per episode. So that might have been all we got of you.”

“Dammit,” Gilbert complained. “Well who’s next, at least?”

“Let’s find out.”

Alfred hovered over the Play Next button, which brought up a small scene of the next episode. It showed a teenage England in a full suit of armor, decorated with both the golden lion on blood red for medieval England, as well as the gold fleur-de-lis on bright blue for medieval France. The episode was simply titled “The Hundred Years War.”

“OH GOD NO!” The boys all yelled in horror, though the smiles on their faces and childlike giggling showed their true feelings.

“You think we can get either of them to come and watch it with us?” Mathias asked Alfred, slowly breaking into a mischievous grin.

“Maybe. I’ll see what I can do. But for now, it’s time to turn off the stream. We love y’all!”

“Bye!”

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“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A! We’re back with episodes three and four! And with a *very* special guest!”

“Oh shut it,” Arthur pouted. “It’s not like I came *just* to watch this rubbish.”

“True. Arthur and I already had a meeting scheduled so I was like, why not hang out for an hour or so? Your flight isn’t until tomorrow, so why not?”

“Plus we have a lot of beer,” Gilbert said as he opened two bottles, handing one to Arthur.

“Let’s get this over with,” Arthur said, taking a swig of his beer and gesturing to Alfred to start the episode, which he did.

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The episode actually started in 1066, starting with the very beginning of England and France’s relationship. This was a good choice, as it also explained why the English kings were able to claim lands in France based on their inheritance. However, despite showing the Norman Conquest of England, something important was missing.

“Where’s Normandy?” England asked. “All I see is France.”

“Oh right! You haven’t seen any of season one, have you?” Alfred asked.

“Hell no!”

“Then you didn’t see when it did the same thing for my states in that season. Netflix basically told all the sub-Nations to fuck off. So ‘cause Normandy was a duchy of France, he gets totally shafted.”

“That’s bullocks. It’s the bloody *Norman* Invasion, not the French Invasion.”

“Tell that to Netflix!”

The next few centuries saw the two Nations grow from children to young teenagers, both appearing to have the bodies of fourteen-year-olds. The two grew up practically on top of each other, with France constantly harassing England any moment he got. As the two got bigger, their fighting evolved from the slap fights of children into the fist fights of teenagers. Eventually, the spats between the Nations became full-on war when the King of England attempted to claim France for himself, with Edward III leading England into battle at Crécy. England himself had joined the archers, armed with an English longbow that was longer than England was tall.

“You said there’s no sub-Nations. So there will be no Wales, despite the fact that the longbow was his invention and he was the one who taught me to shoot in the first place?” Arthur asked.

“No, I doubt Wales will—wait, Uncle Rhys taught you archery?” Alfred asked.

“Rhys taught me many things. He even told me the same bedtime stories that I told you as a lad! Which is why it’s so ridiculous that he’s not here now! He was an important part of this war!”

“Is this gonna become another drinking game?” Gilbert asked, holding his beer up in the air. “Drink every time Wales isn’t here?”

“Can’t be a drinking game without something stronger, I think,” Mathias commented.

“Hold on, pause the show!” Gilbert yelled, hitting the pause button. He got up off the couch and ran off screen towards the kitchen. “I’ll go grab the liquor!”

“No!” Alfred yelled after him. “Arthur can’t handle it!”

“Yes I can!” Arthur insisted, getting up on his knees and leaning over the edge of the loveseat so Gilbert could hear him in the kitchen. He leaned so far off it he almost fell off the chair entirely before righting himself. “Gilbert, grab the gin, if Alfred has any!”

Gilbert came back with a bottle of scotch (the only alcohol Alfred had in the cabinet) and a bunch of shot glasses. Despite Alfred’s protests, Arthur was given a shot glass as well and the show was resumed—but not before the boys all took a shot for Wales’s absence at the Battle of Crécy. After a brief scene where both Nations were made disgustingly sick by the Black Death, the war continued. At the Battle of Poitiers, the English longbow was decisive in

winning the day, but Wales was again absent. Instead, the scene focused on England and France, locked in combat until England got the upper hand with a lucky swing of his sword. France and his king were taken captive by England, who celebrated and gloated to his rival's face.

The boys took a third shot for the famous Battle of Agincourt, which once again had longbows, but no Wales. At the battle, England and King Henry V led an army of longbowmen, shooting through pouring rain and mowing down the lines of French soldiers who had gotten stuck in the ensuing mud. After claiming victory, the English king was served dinner by the defeated French nobles, and England took the opportunity to smear mud in France's hair.

"Ha! Take tha' frog!" England yelled at the screen in triumph.

"Didn't you *lose* this war?" Alfred asked.

"Not for 'nother for'y years."

"That already sounded *rough*. I told you guys he can't hold his liquor!"

"Alfred, at least wait until the end of the episode to cut him off," Mathias advised. "We haven't even gotten to Joan of Arc yet! Plus, I really want to see just how bad he gets."

Mathias didn't have to wait too long. The Maid of Orléans arrived at the French court claiming to be sent by Heaven to bring the victory to France. She and the Personification of her homeland relieved the siege at Orléans and defeated the English at Patay. In a weird choice on Netflix's part, Joan gave France a kiss after they had won their victory and implied that the two were lovers.

"Did they add in a love story just to make her death seem more tragic?" Gilbert asked.

"I dunno. I don't know if they were even really lovers or not. Arthur?" Alfred asked. Arthur just shrugged.

"Never really paid 'em much 'ttention. France flir'ed with a lotta people, lotsa 'umans too. She coulda been 'is mum for all I cared," he said, slurring his way through all his sentences.

"Okay, you're done. Give me your beer," Alfred demanded, holding out his hand. Arthur held out the beer at first, then took it back when Alfred reached for it, chugging the rest of it with a cheeky grin. Mathias and Gilbert just laughed.

"Goddamnit Iggy!" Alfred groaned, getting up off the couch and plucking Arthur out of his chair like he weighed nothing. Arthur squawked in surprise as he was flung over Alfred's shoulder like a sack of flour.

"Pumme down!" The former empire yelled.

"Nope! You've had enough. You're going to bed. Say goodnight to the guys and the stream."

Arthur didn't say goodnight to anyone, instead continuing to drunkenly argue with Alfred and beg to be put down, claiming it was undignified to be carried around like this. Alfred refused to do so, carrying him offscreen and out of the microphone's range of hearing.

While waiting for Alfred to return, Gilbert checked on the chat and said hi to the people of the internet.

"Holy shit, so many people just watched Arthur get his ass handed to him," he giggled, causing Mathias to join him.

After a few minutes, Alfred returned to the stream, plopping himself back down on the couch and hitting play.

The war then quickly began to turn in France's favor, with the remaining twenty years seeing England lose almost all of his holdings in France. The war ended in 1453 with the Battle of Castillon, which England lost miserably, and the episode ended soon after.

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The boys took a break to use the bathroom, answer some quick questions from the chat (although most of the chat was simply gossip about England's alcoholic tendencies) and grab more beer before starting the next episode.

The episode started in the year 962 in Venice. The King of East Francia had just been crowned Roman Emperor by the Pope that same year, and the Personification of the Kingdom was traveling to Venice to spread the news and ask Venice to join his new empire. Both Venice and the new 'Roman Empire' appeared to be around ten years old. Just young enough that the very pretty Personification of Venice could still be confused for a girl.

However, instead of flirting with Venice, the boy who would come to be known as the Holy Roman Empire talked to him in a purely professional tone. In fact, Holy Rome seemed surprisingly taken by Venice's human handmaiden, the daughter of a Venetian merchant.

"Wait, what?!" Mathias cried out.

"Come on, man! Don't you remember how straight-washed everyone was in season one? Why are you surprised?" Alfred asked.

"I dunno. I guess I assumed they wouldn't be able to change stuff that had been practically written in stone. *So many* people had written about HRE and Feli's super dramatic romance. Even *Feli himself* wrote a memoir a few years ago to set all the historians straight about what really happened!"

"Guess it was too gay for Netflix," Gil laughed. "Young boys fall in love at first sight, but one thinks the other is a girl so when they get older and hit puberty he gets cold feet 'cause of homophobia so the other boy tries to trick him by dressing as a girl in order to be with him anyway? All played out over multiple centuries? *Way* too gay for Netflix."



“Yeah, guess you’re right,” Mathias conceded with a swig of his beer. “Did Netflix ever make a statement about that?”

“... Yes! I remember now!” Alfred exclaimed. “Cause after France’s lawsuit became well-known, people started asking Netflix, like ‘hey, what the fuck?’ so Netflix said that they had changed a bunch of stuff because they didn’t think it would be ‘realistic’ for so many Nations to be LGBT. And France’s response was just ‘y’all have no idea who you’re making a show about, do you.’”

In 1032, when the Kingdom of Burgundy was incorporated into the Empire, Holy Rome visited Venice again to ask him to join him. And once again, Venice introduced the Empire to his human maids, who piqued the young Empire’s interest. The girl looked exactly like the first girl had, as if she was her reincarnation. Holy Rome seemed to take this speculation as fact, and swore that he would find her again and again.

“Feli texted me,” Alfred announced. “It’s just a bunch of crying-face emojis.”

A few centuries later, after the Holy Roman Empire had seized much of Venice’s inland territory during the Italian Wars, Holy Rome was invited to a Venetian Masquerade to celebrate. The HRE now had the body of a scrawny thirteen-year-old, but he was being left in the dust by Venice, who now appeared sixteen since the Renaissance had made him shoot up like a weed. Of course, with the party being a masquerade, everyone was wearing masks, and it was easy for people to confuse who they were talking to behind the disguise. While looking for the most recent incarnation of his Venetian lover girl, he ended up dancing with the Personification of Venice, who—for seemingly no reason at all—was dressed in a woman’s costume. Venice told Holy Rome that the human he was looking for had died in a recent plague.

“Forget about that little human girl,” Venice whispered, leaning in to kiss Holy Rome, who pushed him away in disgust. Holy Rome ran out of the ballroom in tears, not because of Venice’s gender and his own internal conflict, but because he feared he would never find his magical human lover.

“Is that all this episode is? Just slandering Feli as a man stealer and saying HRE only ever had eyes for human girls? ‘Oh! How I love you, my sweet Ven... etian girl who is somehow immortal!’” Gilbert sighed, putting his hands to his chest and forehead in a dramatic swoon.

“Looks like it. Check this out,” Alfred said, handing Gilbert his phone. Gilbert let out a dry laugh, then flipped the phone around so the camera could see it. It was the meme of a man walking hand-in-hand with his girlfriend while also turning around to look at another girl. The jilted girlfriend was labeled ‘North Italy, who wrote an entire book about his relationship with HRE,’ the man was labeled ‘Nations Reality!HRE,’ and the other girl was labeled ‘Some magic human maid IDK.’

A century later, the Thirty Years War broke out, causing the Holy Roman Empire to fall ill as not only his population but his strength as a national entity was decimated. The boy was so weakened by the fighting that he would never leave his territory ever again. For the next hundred and fifty years, the NP of the HRE was frozen in time, remaining the same age and falling behind as all his neighbors reached adulthood.

The episode ended with a bedridden Holy Rome writing a love letter to his Venetian lover, asking her to wait for him to return to her.

“Oh thank God that’s over,” Alfred groaned when the credits began playing.

“Poor Feliciano.” Mathias shook his head in pity. “To see this bullshit.”

“Rating out of ten? For historical accuracy?” Alfred asked. Gilbert held up a single finger. Mathias held up three.

“Three?!” Gilbert squawked.

“Hey, at least you can tell that it was based on Feliciano’s memoir! Once you have that in mind, it’s pretty obvious what they changed and what was mostly kept the same. But yeah, the rest is pretty shit.”

“He should hop on that defamation lawsuit France cooked up,” Gilbert suggested. “See if he can get Netflix to just delete this mess from everyone’s memory.”

“Maybe. But not before we finish the season! We still have six more episodes!” Alfred said.

“Next time!” Gilbert insisted. “I can’t handle any more bullshit right now.”

“Yeah, it’s time to end the stream for today anyway. Bye y’all! We love you!”

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“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A! We’re back with part three of season two! Sadly, there’s no guest with us today. Though, if it were to go anything like last time, I guess that’s a good thing.”

“The chat keeps asking about England and what happened after you took him to bed,” Gilbert read.

“Not much. After he calmed down, he just passed out. Thankfully he wasn’t *too* hungover the next day, but he was still, like, twice the asshole he usually is.”

“Ready for episode five?” Mathias asked. “It’s either about Spain or Austria. I’m not super sure which one.”

“It’s kinda both, but mostly Spain,” Gilbert said. “He’s busy today so he couldn’t come, but he promised he would check the stream when he could and text me.”

“Great! Let’s get started then!”

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The episode opened up in a church, with the year being specified as 1519. Since the King of Spain had just inherited the title of the Archduke of Austria and Holy Roman Emperor, the Nations were being married to each other to reflect their new unity. Both looked incredibly

uncomfortable and awkward, especially as the priest performing the ceremony brought up the Papal Bull of 1386. Mathias also cringed at this, which confused Alfred.

“I’m completely lost. What the hell is he talking about?” Alfred asked.

“It’s the ruling from the Pope that said that Nations aren’t human, so it allowed countries to have their Nations get married, even if it broke the rules of the Bible ‘cause those rules applied to humans, but *not* Nations. So it was ok if the marriage was homosexual or polygamous or whatever. Or both, like when Norway and Sweden and I were married under the Kalmar Union!”

“... That happened?!” Alfred asked. Mathias nodded.

“Yup. It all started because of Poland and Lithuania’s marriage.”

“And it pretty much fell apart after the Protestant Reformation since everyone was telling the Pope to go fuck himself,” Gilbert added.

“Ah.”

The wedding ceremony ended with a feast, which was not any less awkward. The newlyweds were congratulated by humans and allied Nations alike, but both were clearly dreading the wedding night to come. Sure enough, when the celebrations were over and it was time for the couple’s first night together, they refused to consummate their marriage and simply went to sleep. Even afterwards, the following years remained in a similar state of awkward cohabitation, certainly not wedded bliss.

“Lies!” Gilbert yelled. “They one hundred percent slept together. I know ‘cause Tony brags about it whenever we talk about his marriage to Rod.”

Suddenly, Gilbert got a text.

“Hey, it’s from Antonio! It just says ‘Not bragging, just truth. Also, actor playing me equals Portuguese, angry face, angry face, angry face.’”

The episode made sure to show that Spain and Austria spent more time with their respective households than with each other. Spain left the continent often to oversee his American colonies. Even while still in Europe, he seemed far more interested in bonding with the Kingdom of Sicily, who Spain now owned in its entirety and clearly enjoyed spending time with. The rowdy teenager took up a large amount of Spain’s attention whenever Spain was home.

On the other hand, Austria was quickly distracted by the newest member of his own household: the Kingdom of Hungary, who as of 1526 now belonged to the Habsburgs. A very different person than she had been three hundred years ago, this Hungary was the picture of femininity and she was quick to follow any and all of Austria’s commands. She and Austria quickly fell into a forbidden romance, an affair between a married man and his servant.

“That is *not* Erzsi!” Gilbert yelled at the screen. “She is *not* that perfect little housewife and she never was! This is not the same Erzsi who rebelled against Austria *and* the Soviet Union! And besides, they only started dating in the 1700s, *way* after his marriage with Spain fell apart.”

The marriage was made even more awkward in 1580, when the Iberian brothers were unified, adding Portugal to their already overflowing household of Nations. Austria was now technically married to both of the Iberian brothers, but he paid Portugal just as little attention as he did to Spain, and Portugal in turn ignored Austria’s presence entirely.

“Got another text from Tony,” Gilbert announced. “This one just says ‘João equals Spanish actor?!?!’”

The boys cracked up at that.

“*Please* tell me that was an accident,” Alfred laughed. “Like, the actors accidentally got sent each others’ scripts and just ran with it? Although I wouldn’t be surprised if the casting director heard their accents and just went ‘eh, close enough.’”

The episode continued on, with Spain being put briefly out of commission after sailing to England with his famous Spanish Armada and almost drowning when his ship was sunk. Shortly afterward, both Spain and Austria were pulled into the Thirty Years War, which exhausted them both and gave Portugal the opportunity to break away from his brother’s empire, ending the short-lived Iberian Union.

The episode ended with the death of Charles II, the War of Spanish Succession, and the end of Habsburg rule in Spain. Most notably for the NP of Spain, the war saw Austria take the Kingdom of Sicily away from Spain, which seemed to break his heart more than anything else Austria had done.

“Jeez, the episodes that try to shove way too much into one episode always end up with crazy endings,” Alfred laughed. “That was like fifty years in the last twenty minutes!”

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The next episode started with a familiar face getting punched. Mathias almost spit out the mouthful of beer he had just taken.

“Is that *me?!?*” Mathias screeched, his voice raising almost a full octave in surprise.

“Holy shit, that actor looks just like you!” Alfred started laughing.

“Ha! I finally have video of you being punched in the face!” Gilbert cackled.

The camera angle changed to reveal Sweden as the person who had punched Denmark. The current year then appeared on screen: 1523. Sweden was rebelling from the Kalmar Union, leaving the household the Nordic countries had shared for more than a century and taking Finland with him. Although, their life together was not exactly typical. On one hand, Sweden

was (and still is) an intimidating man, who unintentionally frightened Finland. On the other hand, when meeting with his officials, Sweden insisted on introducing Finland as his ‘wife.’

“Wow! They’re actually showing Sweden as gay as he really is!” Mathias smiled.

“What, no magical human Finnish girls who he just happened to fall in love with?” Alfred joked.

“I think Bernhard’s relationship with Finny is just too blatant for them to cover up! At least with HRE and Feliciano, HRE clearly took a while to be comfortable with his sexuality, and there was the crossdressing thing too. But Bernhard had been calling Finny his ‘wife’ from practically the day they met. Just *no* questioning it! Thankfully he stopped calling him that once Finny gathered up the courage to ask him to stop. Which is ironic ‘cause nowadays Bern calls him his *husband*, even though they can’t legally get married ‘cause they’re both independent countries. But yeah, Finny used to be terrified of Bern! Then he realized that Bern just has a scary face, but is a nice guy. When you’re not *at war* with him, that is.”

“Oh yeah, Sweden has the worst case of Resting Bitch Face in all of Europe,” Gilbert agreed.

Now home in Stockholm and free from Danish rule, Sweden and Finland lived together in peace for a good forty years. Their only problem was Finland’s complaints of loneliness, which first resulted in Sweden giving him a dog. However, as adorable as Kukkamuna was, Finland still wanted people he could talk to. When Sweden went to war against his neighbors during the Northern Seven Years War and later the Polish-Swedish War, the NP was particularly focused on capturing Estonia—no matter what the Swedish king had actually requested of him—since he knew Finland would be happy to have his cousin as a companion. He even managed to snag Latvia (or Livonia, as he was known back then) as well.

No matter what the King of Sweden’s true motivations were, the Personification of Sweden only ever seemed to have one goal: make Finland happy in the hopes that he will return Sweden’s affections for him. However, Finland simply wasn’t interested, no matter what Sweden did. One night, Finland made sure to tell Sweden how he felt: “I like you, but I don’t *like* like you.” Sweden simply responded with a grunt.

“Great writing there, Netflix,” Alfred jeered. “You have a thirteen-year-old girl write this episode?”

“At least Bernhard’s lines are accurate; the guy barely speaks,” Mathias noted. “Although, they’re really pushing for this to be a one-sided love. I’m pretty sure he and Finny were already sleeping together by now.”

However, this period of expansion would not last. Skipping ahead to the Great Northern War, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Lithuania, and now Russia were all at war with Sweden. Despite being an absolute beast at the Battle of Narva and defeating Russia while in the midst of a blizzard, after years of fighting, Russia managed to defeat Sweden with the one weapon he was known for: General Winter. It was the first time an invading European army was completely destroyed by the harsh Russian winter, though the show went a little overboard by showing the General as a literal god made up of a sentient blizzard that Russia could command at will.

“WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?! This isn’t a fairy tale, Netflix!” Alfred yelled, laughing hysterically.

“This is like one of Norge’s stories about the frost giants!” Mathias laughed.

“I fought against Russia during one of those famous winters, and let me tell you, it was not *nearly* that awesome,” Gilbert said. “It was just cold and wet and miserable!”

Now that Sweden was losing the war, Russia reached the Baltic Sea and claimed the NPs of Estonia and Livonia for himself. He also began invading Finland. Sweden immediately jumped to Finland’s defense, but lost and was forced to simply let Russia occupy Finland. Russia noticed Finland’s beauty immediately, and was quick to flirt with him. The show then skipped ahead another eighty years to see Russia seize Finland entirely during the Napoleonic Wars. Finland was framed as a damsel in distress being stolen away by the big, bad Russia.

“Oh *great*, now it’s a love triangle,” Mathias groaned.

“Except Ivan was never interested in Finland like that!” Alfred argued. “Of all of the sub-Nations within the Russian Empire, Ivan only ever had eyes for Tolys. I know ‘cause Tolys used to complain about how Ivan would try to convince him to break up with Feliks so that they could get together. It never *worked*, but he definitely tried.”

The episode ended with Sweden being left all alone, his empire having been greatly reduced and the apple of his eye being stolen by a rival power. Finland was brought into the household of the Russian Empire, not to see Sweden again for another century.

“Finny texted me,” Mathias announced. “It’s just a whole lot of cursing in Finnish. He also sent a meme of the stupid General Winter monster being shot by snipers from the Winter War that says ‘ain’t got nothing on Simo Häyhä’ haha!”

“Oh god, I’m still not over that General Winter part,” Alfred said, descending into a fit of giggles once again. “That CGI!”

“Also, I’m pretty sure Finny had to fight against Russia by himself,” Mathias said. “Bern was too busy fighting *me* at the time, so I think Netflix just tried to make Finny look more helpless for Bern to rescue.”

“No surprise there. They did the same thing last season! But at least we’re more than halfway through. What’d you think of these episodes?”

“The Habsburg Spain one was mostly just a refusal to acknowledge Antonio and Roderich’s marriage, but was otherwise fine,” Gilbert admitted. “The Sweden one? I think the General Winter thing speaks for itself. That was hilarious!”

“Dude, if each episode had bonkers shit like that, I would never want this show to end!” Alfred agreed. “I guess we’ll have to wait and see... Next time! We’ll see y’all next stream! Love you!”

“Bye!”

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“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka-UGH! Ham, down boy!” Alfred was interrupted by his cat trying to reach across his lap to paw at Gilbert. Hamilton, Alfred’s large white Maine Coon, was well-known to followers of his channel, as the cat loved attention and often ended up interrupting videos. At the moment, it was trying to grab the canary that was calmly perched atop Gilbert’s head.

“Dude, I think you might need to put your bird away, otherwise I think Ham might try and eat him,” Alfred warned, wrangling Ham away from Gilbert.

“I didn’t bring his cage with me! Where do you want me to put him?” Gilbert asked, cupping his beloved canary in his hands to protect it.

“Damnit, I hoped we could get through the stream without Ham starting shit. Alright, I guess I’ll put Ham in my room for now,” Alfred conceded, manhandling his large cat into his arms and getting up off the couch.

“Your cat is gigantic, man!” Mathias told him. “You need to put him on a diet or something!”

“He is a handsome chonker and he is perfect just the way he is! Except he can’t be in the living room right now!” Alfred called out as he walked off screen. A door could be heard closing before Alfred ran back into the living room and plopped back down onto the couch.

“Why did you bring your bird today anyway?” Alfred asked.

“Because I looked ahead and I know the episodes we’re watching today cover some of my greatest victories! So he should be here to witness and celebrate them!” Gilbert preened, opening a bottle of beer.

“You sure you want your bird seeing Netflix’s portrayal of those victories? They might not end up as glorious as you remember them,” Mathias chuckled.

“I don’t care! Let’s play the episodes!”

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The episode began with a gorgeous and grand ceremony celebrating the coronation of Queen Maria Teresa as Archduchess of Austria. Her Nation was sitting at a grande piano, practically his natural state. All seemed to be going as planned until a familiar canary flew in through the open window and landed right on Austria’s music sheets. It had a letter attached to its foot. Austria took the letter and read it aloud to his new Archduchess. It was from Prussia, who was threatening war if the Archduchess did not give Silesia over to Prussia.

“See! I told you!” Gilbert exclaimed, excitedly pointing at the screen. “I mean there wasn’t *actually* a formal declaration of war, but whatever! Close enough!”

“You knew your bird would be in this episode, didn’t you?” Mathias asked.

“When this episode first came out, I got an influx of tweets from people asking if Gilbird was real and if he was still alive. I was so happy to show him off!”

Prussia allied with France and Spain. Maria Teresa’s relative and ally was the current King of England, so England allied with Austria and traveled to Vienna to help. Plus, the NP personally wanted to ally with Austria simply because Prussia had allied himself with France, and England couldn’t help himself when it came to fighting his archrival. The triple alliance of Prussia, France, and Spain also had an unintended consequence: creating an incredibly strong friendship between the three Personifications, who found themselves to complement each other perfectly.

“Ah, yes!” Gilbert smirked. “And so, the greatest trio in all of Europe was formed! Well, Antonio technically didn’t join until later in the war, but still! BEST FRIENDS TRIO FOREVER!”

“Don’t be so deceitful,” Mathias laughed. “All of Europe knows that B stands for *Bad*. You three bring chaos wherever you go! Always have and always will!”

The first battle of the war, the Battle of Mollwitz, saw Prussia and his favorite king, Frederick the Great, defeat the Austrian army. Though the king was young and inexperienced, his NP managed to fix his mistakes and win the battle. After this loss, Austria accompanied his Archduchess to Hungary where she asked the Hungarians for help in raising an army. Austria had a short romantic moment with Hungary, but instead of Hungary agreeing to join the fight herself, she simply agreed to send her men to fight in the Austrian army.

“Wait, no!” Gilbert cried. “She’s supposed to fight me! No! Show my awesome victories against Erzsi!”

“Told you, man!” Mathias teased, nudging Gilbert.

Sure enough, when the Battle of Chotusitz broke out, Prussia defeated the Austrian army, but the Personification of Hungary was nowhere to be seen. In Italy, other unsatisfying battles were being fought, such as when Austria tried to take the Kingdom of Naples for himself again (Spain had re-acquired his charge a decade earlier), but suffered a swift kick to the crotch by the Italian instead. This got a round of laughter from the audience.

“Can I get an instant replay on that?” Gilbert asked. Alfred obliged with a grin, rewinding the episode ten seconds so they could watch it happen again. Gilbert just laughed even harder.

“I don’t even give a shit if that was historically accurate or not!” He cackled. “I *love* that Netflix put it in the episode!”

Prussia continued to win battle after battle. In Italy, the combined French-Spanish army was able to defeat Austria’s forces time and time again, especially when Naples joined forces with them. The show did neglect to mention that Naples’ younger siblings Sardinia and Genoa were also involved in the war, but no one in the audience mentioned it since they were not surprised at this point. After all, neither Bavaria nor Saxony’s participation in the war had been mentioned at all either.



The episode ended with the signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, even though everyone except for Prussia was dissatisfied with the results of the war. England, feeling particularly petty as Prussia preened over his victory, insulted him.

“You may be an eagle,” England said. “But you are by far the dirtiest eagle I’ve ever seen.”

Prussia snorted. “I guess that’s the more PG version of what he said.”

“What did he actually say?” Mathias asked.

“He called me ‘the Kingfucker.’”

“... Why?”

“Cause I was fucking my king!”

Mathias and Alfred then burst out in unison: “IT’S *LITERAL?*!”

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The next episode began not even a decade later, in 1756. All of Europe was shocked to hear that Britain and Prussia were now in an alliance with each other, but no one was more surprised than the Personifications of those countries themselves. Both NPs were visibly offended that they were being forced to work with someone they hated so much. France in particular was devastated to hear that his new best friend was working with his archnemesis, but was comforted when he received a private letter (carried by Prussia’s favorite canary, of course) that reassured him of Prussia’s willingness to continue being best friends once the dust settled.

However, fighting was already guaranteed, since France was already at war with Britain. A short scene in North America gave a cameo to a preteen America, who was watching from afar as the fighting went down between the British and French colonists.

“Jesus, even when the season is meant to take place in Europe, we can’t escape you,” Mathias chuckled, ruffling Alfred’s hair.

“Hey, I can’t help that François and Iggy insisted on fighting all over the place! Besides, this war was pretty much a world war before the World Wars, though I doubt Netflix is gonna show any of the fighting in India or Canada from this war.”

In Europe, Prussia started strong by capturing Prague, but was quickly surrounded by France, Austria, and later Russia and Sweden as well. And yet despite this, Prussia won major battles at Rossbach and Leuthen against the French and Austrians, respectively. These victories convinced Austria to turn to the Holy Roman Empire. Even though he was frozen as a young teenager—and a rather short one at that—while Austria was a grown man, Austria still bowed to the HRE when he met him, treating the boy like a prince.

“Oh no,” Gilbert groaned. “They’re using Holy Rome as a stand-in for the smaller German states. Seriously, no one cared about Karl anymore! There’s a reason Voltaire said Karl was ‘not Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire’ at this point. If this meeting really happened, I’m sure

Austria just went to Saxony and Hesse directly to ask them for troops while Karl stood on a chair so he could look tall and important and remind us that actually *he* owned Roderich's house, like he'd done a billion times already."

That phase of the war was particularly devastating for Prussia. The Battle of Hochkirch was an Austrian victory. When their two armies met in the middle of town, Prussia and Austria forgoed their guns and bayonets, pulling out swords instead. The battle turned into a personal swordfight, with each NP spewing insults at each other the entire time. Austria eventually got the upper hand, stabbing Prussia in the shoulder with his blade. A few years later, Austria and Russia together took control of Berlin while Prussia was busy fighting the French. With his capital city captured, Prussia's heart was in disarray and he was put on bedrest. Old Fritz tried to comfort his Nation, who hated being stuck in bed while he was injured, staying at Prussia's side and practically becoming his personal nursemaid as he tried to keep his Nation happy.

"Oh yeah, I see it now," Mathias smirked. "'The king becoming a bedside nurse, devoted to caring only for his Nation,' huh Netflix? Really?"

Both King Frederick and Prussia were then further upset by the news that Britain only cared about fighting France and therefore was not sending reinforcements for fighting against Austria, Sweden, and Russia. Just when all hope seemed lost, Russia had a sudden change of heart, as his queen died and was replaced with a king who was a huge fan of Prussia. Out of nowhere, the Russian troops threatening Berlin were transferred over to Frederick's command for nothing more than recognition from King Frederick, and Prussia was able to hop out of bed with a miraculous recovery. Fearing the new Russo-Prussian alliance, Sweden immediately exited the war, leaving Austria alone to be crushed one last time at the Battle of Freiburg.

"Yet another great battle I fought against Hungary erased!" Gilbert lamented, taking Gilbird off of his head to pet the canary. "Such a shame you'll never see such glories, Gilbird!"

"I'm so confused about what happened at the end there," Alfred said. "Was all that Russia craziness something Netflix made up?"

"Ironically enough, no," Gilbert admitted. "That was just one of the weird things that happened. When Russia was told to just hand over his troops to me, he actually was super confused, but we both basically shrugged, realized that 'humans are gonna be human,' and just rolled with it."

The episode ended with the signing of the Treaty of Hubertusburg, followed by Prussia and King Frederick sharing a completely platonic toast over champagne.

"Awww! You two made an adorable couple!" Alfred teased Gilbert, who took it in stride.

"Of course we did! He was the awesomest king who ever lived and I am the awesomest Nation in the whole world!" Alfred and Mathias just rolled their eyes.

"These episodes were both based on your diaries, right?" Mathias asked.

"Yes!"

“So those losses against Austria were also historically accurate?”

“... also yes.”

“Still, it’s totally unfair that you’ve practically got three episodes centered around yourself and so far I’ve got none,” Mathias complained, poking Gilbert in the stomach. Gilbert simply responded by sticking his tongue out at him.

“Well, the show’s not over yet!” Alfred reminded them. “We’re eighty percent of the way through but we’ve still got two more episodes to go. Just enough for one more stream! Who knows? Maybe you’ll show up in the last two, Mathias!”

“Unlikely.”

“Don’t be such a downer! But for now, we gotta go. We love you guys! Bye for now!”

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“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A! We’re back for the finale! Time to finally put an end to this shitshow!”

“Cheers to that!” Mathias called. Alfred and Gilbert clinked their beers together with his.

“I have really enjoyed getting drunk with you guys and ragging on this terrible show,” Alfred admitted.

“*That* I will miss. But the actual show itself? Not so much. Let’s get it over with,” Gilbert said, hitting the play button.

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In the Netherlands in 1795, the French army had arrived in the Hague. France was prancing around the main room of the Ridderzaal with pride, celebrating the turnaround his country had achieved in only a few years. The Personification of the Netherlands, along with his siblings, was smoking his pipe and ignoring the man. The Benelux siblings simply tuned out France’s voice as he goaded them to rejoice at becoming his ‘sibling republics’; they looked out the window at the tulip fields, which were full of French soldiers.

“I love how no matter how badly everyone else is written, François is always François,” Alfred grinned. The others simply nodded.

In 1797, when Napoleon’s army fought against Austria’s army in northern Italy, France was right there alongside him. Having pushed Austria out of the area, they made it all the way to Venice. At first, Venice welcomed France into his city, since the two were good friends. However, his attitude changed when he learned that France and Austria had signed a treaty that allowed Austria to take almost all of Venice for himself. The eleven-hundred-year-old republic was to be made into nothing more than an Austrian province. Venice did *not* take this well. After the Treaty of Campo Formio had been signed and the Nations went to sleep, Venice snuck into Austria’s room and stabbed him in the chest as revenge.

“Hey, Feli’s watching the stream! I just got a text from him!” Alfred announced. “It just says ‘Porco Dio! I didn’t actually stab him! I definitely wanted to though; I was *sooooo* mad, but I knew stabbing him wouldn’t do anything. I mostly just cried.’ Feli, you have better restraint than literally everyone on this couch right now. I’m pretty sure *all* of us have stabbed Nations we’ve been angry with before.

That was actually one of the few things they got *right* last season! During the Revolutionary War episode, they showed when I managed to stab Arthur with my bayonet and I was so excited that I had actually done it that I wasn’t paying enough attention and Arthur immediately got me with *his* bayonet.”

France then christened Switzerland as the Helvetic Republic, though not without getting shot in the head. No matter what powers were occupying his lands, the Swiss NP was forever feisty and trigger-happy. However, this didn’t slow France down a bit. At the rate his country was winning wars and gaining territory, it took barely any time at all for him to heal. If anything, the Nation seemed to be going mad with power. During the War of the Third Coalition, France watched as Napoleon’s forces fought Russia and Austria during the Battle of Austerlitz. When the Russian forces tried to retreat over a frozen lake, Napoleon fired his cannons into the lake to break the ice and drown the Russians. France laughed maniacally as Russia and his army struggled to stay afloat.

Things took a darker turn when Napoleon created the Confederation of the Rhine as a shield to protect France from Austria and Prussia. The Holy Roman Empire was already very weak and sickly, but being replaced by a new body of German states was the last straw. In 1806, Austria watched his body fade away before declaring him officially dead.

“He didn’t fade *that* fast, Netflix,” Gilbert snorted. “Karl hung on until 1813, at least. Of course, he was barely conscious most of the time. In fact, I used to read Grimm’s Fairy Tales to him to keep him awake. And besides, there was never an official announcement of his death!”

The Wars of the Fourth and Fifth Coalitions were also French victories. After losing horribly in the War of the Fourth Coalition, Prussia was carved up by France and Russia and was forced to give land to Poland, who was so thankful for the return of his land that he kissed France on the mouth.

Finally, in 1812, Napoleon began his invasion of Russia.

“Wait! This is one of the famous Russian winter invasions!” Alfred pointed out. “You think they’ll bring back General Winter?”

“They have to!” Mathias enthusiastically agreed.

The boys all waited anxiously for the most ridiculous part of the show to return. Sure enough, as Napoleon began to pull his Grand Armée out of Moscow, the winter weather came with General Winter in tow. France looked behind him and saw a humanoid blizzard reaching out to him, chasing after the retreating army. France screamed with terror before being overtaken by a CGI cloud of snow and being instantly frozen.

“YES!” The boys cheered when the monster appeared on screen, throwing their hands in the air and laughing hysterically. “GENERAL WINTER! FUCK YEAH!”

The episode ended with the Battle of Paris, during which Swedish, Russian, Prussian, and Austrian forces all worked together to capture the French capital. France, incapacitated by the problems in his heart, was forced to surrender.

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The final episode began with the Congress of Vienna, a series of balls and meetings to negotiate the new balance of power on the continent. It was a veritable who’s who of European Nations. Practically everyone who had appeared in the show that season got a cameo at the very least: Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark (“*See?* I told you you’d show up at least one more time, Mathias!”), Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Hungary, both Italies, and even Malta. Of course, the action focused on the five biggest players of Europe: Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia, and France, who despite having lost the final Napoleonic War, was still given a seat at the discussions table. Not everyone was treated equally though. Austria gave Netherlands independence, but was allowed to keep Venice. Poland was simply handed over to Russia as soon as Russia asked the others if he could have him, no matter how much Poland screamed with indignation.

Once all other land distribution issues had been settled, Prussia stood up and demanded that they talk about creating a German state, arguing that the German peoples needed better protection against the stronger powers like France or Russia.

“Alfred, you know how I gave you shit last season when you complained about your States not being in the show?” Gilbert asked.

Alfred’s eyes narrowed as he slowly turned to his friend. “Yeah?” He dragged out the word for extra passive-aggression.

“I get it now. This makes *no fucking sense* without all the smaller German states,” Gilbert explained, falling into a fit of giggles. “This makes no sense without them! Why would *I* be the one looking for unity and defense? I was one of the *winners!* I could defend myself!”

After debating for hours upon hours, Prussia got his way. Austria agreed to help him create the German Confederation, which would be the true replacement of the Holy Roman Empire, as opposed to the puppet state Napoleon had propped up. As soon as the negotiations were complete and all the paperwork was signed, a burst of bright light filled the room. When it cleared, a familiar blond boy was standing there.

Mathias and Alfred laughed.

“Oh come on, Netflix. Everyone knows Nations are born from the earth. During one of the days of the Congress, Roderich announced that he had found Germany wandering the royal gardens.” Mathias said.

“Dude, they just double-cast HRE’s actor! I swear, Netflix’s casting director is hella lazy, am I right?” Alfred added on, turning to Gilbert. Gilbert, who had gone pale (or at least, paler

than his albinism usually painted him) at the sight of the young Germany on screen, suddenly broke out of the trance he had been in. He forced a nervous laugh out in response to Alfred's joke.

"Haha, yeah... Really lazy of them..."

After the Congress had ended, Prussia stayed in Vienna so he and Austria could figure out who would be responsible for the Personification of Germany, who didn't even have a human name yet. After even more arguing, it was decided that both Prussia *and* Austria would have custody of the newly christened Ludwig Friedrich Leopold von Wien. The boy would spend half his time in Berlin with Prussia and the other half in Vienna with Austria and Hungary.

"Of course you had to name him after your favorite king," Mathias teased.

"He was gonna be an awesome Nation who needed an awesome namesake!" Gilbert excused. "Besides, Erzsi convinced us to go with the compromise names anyway. Ludwig was the one name we could agree on and 'von Wien' was because both of us wanted him to have our surname so we ended up with a location name."

Germany's first few years were spent in Berlin, as he was too small and sickly to travel back and forth between Berlin and Vienna every six months at that point. Despite having no companions close to his age, Prussia made sure Germany wasn't lonely by gifting him a golden Hovawart that Germany named 'Berlitz.' When Austria heard of this, he attempted to one-up Prussia by giving Germany *two more* dogs, a German shepherd named Aster and a Doberman named Schwärzchen. Eventually, Hungary was forced to call off the unofficial competition to win Germany's love; there simply wouldn't be enough room in the house for more dogs if the pattern continued. Germany was simply happy to have three dogs, completely unaware of his father-figures' war for his affection.

Germany's childhood wasn't perfect though. Even after he had grown strong enough to travel back and forth between his two guardians, not everything was peaceful. During the Revolutions of 1848 and 1849, Germany suffered multiple meltdowns as a result of his people's disagreements and disorganization. This forced Prussia and Austria to begrudgingly work together to comfort their son. They also joined forces to take the Schleswig and Holstein regions from Denmark in 1864.

"Dammit! All I've gotten in this show is tiny cameos!" Mathias lamented. "They couldn't have had one episode on the Vikings or something?"

"Then they wouldn't've had enough screen time for that stupid HRE magical-girl love story!" Alfred joked.

However, the Schleswig Wars were the beginning of the end for their family. Prussia and Austria went to war with each other in 1866 over what pieces of the territories technically belonged to them. Then their custody of Germany got bundled into what they were fighting over. Prussia won the war in just over a month, kicking Austria out of the German Confederation and gaining full custody of Germany in the process.

A few years later, Prussia went to war with France, with the intention of gaining more land for Germany. The boy was now the size of a teenager, old enough to follow his brother along on the war campaign. Prussia made short work of the French, defeating them in only six months. During the Battle of Sedan, Prussia even let his brother fire one of the cannons on his own. The Prussian army managed to lay siege to Paris itself, though Prussia wasn't paying attention to the capital. He was looking at the bigger prize: Versailles. With the French army all but defeated, the Prussians took control of the Palace of Versailles and used it as the main stage for the unification of the German Empire.

The episode ended with the dual coronation of Wilhelm as German Emperor and Ludwig as the new German Emperor.

"Gil, are you getting teary-eyed?" Mathias asked.

"I can't help it!" Gilbert laughed, though his eyes were indeed shiny. He wiped his eyes before any tears could fall. "My baby was all grown, and after only a few decades! He grew up so fast!"

"I thought you were crying tears of joy that it's finally over," Alfred joked. Gilbert nodded.

"That too," he said, making the others laugh. Alfred got up from the couch.

"Hold on, I'll grab you some tissues!"

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After returning with tissues for Gilbert and turning off the TV, Alfred sat back down.

"So? Final thoughts?" He asked his friends.

"Definitely a hot mess," Gilbert said. Mathias nodded.

"Yeah. Just like last season, the historical accuracy went from almost there to not even close incredibly quickly. Honestly, the only episodes that were really solid were the ones based on Gil's diaries! Well, except that one scene when Germany was born. That made no sense."

"Why is that?" Alfred asked. "I assumed anything they were pulling from your life would have way better accuracy."

"That period was one of the few times in my life that I didn't keep up with my diaries. I was *uh...* too busy... caring for Lutz. Yeah! They had to fill in the gap and just happened to fill it with absolute bullshit!"

Both Alfred and Mathias gave Gilbert a look, but didn't say anything; they would address it when the stream was over.

"They did reach a whole 'nother level of so-bad-it's-good though," Alfred said, ignoring Gilbert's behavior and moving on. "All the crazy magic stuff they threw in like the HRE Venice girl storyline and all the General Winter scenes were *amazingly bad* and I love them so much."

“All the missing sub-Nations? Even better,” Gilbert added, finishing off his beer. “It’s like an extra game, trying to figure out everyone who should be there but isn’t. We could’ve easily made those last few episodes into drinking games too, but it probably would’ve gotten too dangerous for a lightweight like you, Alfred.”

“Lightweight?!” Alfred balked. “I can drink *way* more than Arthur did when he was our guest!”

“Sure, but can you keep up with us?” Mathias asked. Alfred opened his mouth to reply, then shut it again.

“Probably not,” he admitted with a shake of his head.

“No way you can keep up with this awesomeness!” Gilbert bragged.

“I think all the extra screentime is going to your head, you ass!” Mathias said, pointing at Gilbert and almost spilling his beer on him. “You got, what, *three* whole episodes for yourself, plus all that extra time in the Germany episode? I only got three little cameos!”

“Hey, maybe you should ask Netflix to do a third season focusing just on you and the Nordics!” Alfred joked. Mathias vehemently shook his head.

“Hell no!” He laughed. “You know what we should do? Ask a better network to make an actually well-researched show! One that doesn’t straight-wash everyone too. Maybe HBO or someone would make it.”

“I doubt it,” Alfred said. “That would actually require them to hire historians and researchers, and that costs extra when they could just have writers pull stuff outta their asses.”

Gilbert and Mathias laughed. Then Alfred’s eyes lit up.

“Wait, they should just hire us! We could play ourselves and keep everything historically accurate!” he exclaimed.

“Could we really?” Mathias asked.

“I know at least some Nations have played themselves, or at least acted before,” Gilbert said. “I’m pretty sure Antonio has played himself in some Spanish historical drama. François and Feli both do modeling. Plus Roderich does all those stupid fancy coffee advertisements.”

“If anyone does ever make a show like that, would you guys want to come back to do another bunch of commentary streams with me?” Alfred asked.

“Absolutely,” Mathias nodded.

“Yeah! Especially if you provide the beer again!” Gilbert added.

They all laughed.



“Alright, this has been really fun,” Alfred smiled. “Both to get a little drunk with you guys and to watch this trainwreck. But sadly, it’s time to end the stream. Everyone online, this has been super fun! I’m so glad so many people were able to join us! We love y’all! Bye!”

## Chapter End Notes

I hope you guys enjoyed this as much as I did.

I’m labeling this as completed for now, but I’m also super tempted to write something for that last section, like an epilogue of Alfred doing a behind-the-scenes of the new, better show. Or other dumb stuff the Nations do on Alfred’s YouTube channel! Or more worldbuilding for this Nations-Have-Always-Been-Public-Knowledge AU that I love. I have too many ideas for stories if you couldn’t tell. If any of them sound interesting, leave a comment to let me know!

If you have any writing prompts or requests or just want to chat about hetalia, I have a tumblr [here](#).

# Epilogue: Personified

## Chapter Notes

Just a little extra, for if they were actually able to get a better show made after the disaster that was *Nations Reality*.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

TV shows take years to go from development to airing, but HBO got to work very quickly. After America, Denmark, and Prussia planted the idea in the public's mind of a show where the Nation Personifications play themselves, the studio ran with the idea, getting a season green-lit very quickly. It worked under the premise that if the show was well-researched enough, it could attract the NPs of the world to join the cast, just as the aforementioned trio had joked.

The studio quickly realized that it would be better to focus on a single event instead of attempting to cover all of history, so HBO approved of a single season focused entirely on World War I. A team of World War I historians were hired into the project, as well as historians that specialized in Nation Personifications. After the scripts for each episode were completed, an open letter to the Nations Personifications was released, asking them for their approval and inviting them to participate in the show.

The new show, *Personified*, needless to say, was *much* better than its predecessor.

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### **BEHIND THE SCENES OF *PERSONIFIED*!!!**

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**AlfredFREEDOMJones** 35.7M

“Hey y’all! It’s Alfred, aka the good ol’ US of A!” Alfred greeted the audience with his catchphrase. He was sitting in a dressing room he had never filmed in before. “Now I know what you want to see. I mean, you’ve already seen the title of the video and clicked on it, so obviously you want to see the stuff about *Personified*. But before I do that, I really need to fill you guys in on how totally crazy and surreal it was to get this show made in the first place.

Y’all remember freaking *years* ago when Gil and Mathias and I watched all of that shitty *Nations Reality* show? We had made a joke about getting a better show made where we would just play ourselves so it would be more accurate. Well, imagine our *fucking surprise* when however long later, HBO releases an open letter to the Nation Personifications of the world inviting them to play themselves! Like, ‘RIP to Netflix but this show’s gonna be *waaay* better. We’re just gonna cover World War I and actually do the research necessary to do it

well.’ And even better, they let any NP who asked about it read the script so they could decide for themselves. At first we were all like, ‘oh cool! That would be fun but I doubt more than like two or three of us would do it.’

And then *Austria* and *fucking ENGLAND* both went ‘yup, sounds good to me. Sign me up.’ Like, what?!?! The two Nations with the snobbiest taste in everything *like* this thing?!?! After that, the show got green-lit like woah. That got everyone interested. And before we knew it we were actually *filming* shit!

Now, I’m recording this just after we finished doing my scenes. I’m pretty sure my battle scenes were done after most of the Western Front scenes but before the Eastern Front? So the Eastern Front Nations will still be around and filming. But by the time I post this video, the entire show should be out so I can show y’all all the cool stuff they have here and I won’t be spoiling anything! I mean, the studio won’t let me post it before the show is out anyway cause I signed an NDA, but still. Let’s go!”

Alfred got up and left the dressing room, exiting out into a hallway and walking to the next door over. The room was simply labeled ‘Costumes.’

“They had a whole *room* for costumes and uniforms!” Alfred explained, opening the door and going inside. A large room full of nothing but racks of clothing were inside. Practically every hanger had a military uniform of some kind.

“Every Nation had like 20 versions of the same outfit. Look at this, this one’s Belgium’s.” He started going through the rack nearest to him, which was full of brown jackets. Each hanger was labeled with the explanation of what scenes they were used for. “‘Belgium, 1914, clean,’ ‘Belgium, 1914, bloody,’ ‘Belgium, 1914, dirty,’ ‘Belgium, 1914, torn.’ It’s ridiculous how many of these they have! And this is just for Belgium! François’s uniform literally changed every year of the war; his section in here is *huge*!”

Alfred walked over to a different rack of clothes which had been labeled with an American flag.

“I don’t have nearly as many as the others, but I still have like five or six of these, which is ridiculous.”

He next moved over to a set of drawers labeled ‘small weapon props.’ Each drawer was labeled with the name of a specific handgun or knife model. Alfred opened a drawer labeled ‘America: M1917 Revolver,’ and pulled out a replica gun.

“Looks just like an M1917, but totally fake. This one’s just for being a prop. They have real ones for scenes that they need to shoot blanks in. Crazy!”

He put the replica gun back into the drawer and pulled out a knife from a random drawer. He pushed the blade with his finger, causing the blade to retract.

“Fake knife for fake-stabbing people. Unless you’re England, and prefer just actually stabbing people,” Alfred snorted. “Yeah, at some point, Arthur got fed-up with the fake knives and called them a waste of time. He was like, ‘we’re all Nation Personifications, we’ll

all heal from a stab or two within a minute. Why not just use real knives? Save us all the trouble of using makeup and fake blood!’ And the directors couldn’t tell he was joking and were like ‘noOOOO! NO STABBING PEOPLE!’ So it became a running joke of people always double checking that Arthur’s knives weren’t real knives.”

Alfred put the knife back in the drawer and left the costume room. He headed further down the hall to a bunch of soundstages. One was set up to look like an office or study.

“I think this one is Germany’s office? I wasn’t in any of the scenes here, but I did watch them film at least one of the ones in here ‘cause I thought it was so cool. They weren’t originally sure if they were gonna do the whole show in English or let the others do scenes in their own languages with subtitles. The first scene they filmed with no English speakers was one between Austria and Germany. And after doing the first take, the director told them, ‘hey, maybe try it in German; see if it feels more natural.’ I know they had translated versions of the script for just in case they went in that direction, but apparently Germany had *only* memorized the English version. I don’t think he realized that doing scenes in German would even be an option, so when Austria starts going in rapid-fire German, Germany freezes and has this terrified look for a split-second before he starts following along.

Once they finished that scene, the director went over to Germany and was like, ‘hey, you did great! You really got across that fear the scene needed.’ Meanwhile I’m trying not to laugh out loud because I’m thinking to myself, ‘Germany’s a terrible actor! That’s not him *acting* scared, that’s him *translating* the script back into German in his head as fast as he can!’ Hahaha!”

The video cut to the finished, official version of the episode. Sure enough, after Austria informs Germany that America is going to be joining the war and giving the Entente Powers a second wind, Germany momentarily blanches before regaining his usual composure.

“No matter how bad of an actor he is, he’s still the perfect person to play himself. I know some weird *Nations Reality* fans on twitter were saying that the actor who played Germany on that show would’ve been better, but I think that’s total bullshit. Germany’s stiff, awkward acting translates perfectly to how stiff and awkward he is in real life! It doesn’t matter that he isn’t doing it on purpose! It’s *perfect*!”

The video cut to Alfred standing in a field which had been covered with fake barbed wire, craters, and muddy puddles.

“This is the Trenches Set! All the scenes on the Western Front are done on this big open field, which they just dug up to make trenches and No Man’s Land. There’s one side that’s a French trench and one side that’s a German trench, though I can’t tell which one is which from here. Way over there”—the camera flipped around to show a tent that had been set up behind the ‘French lines’ which had been marked with a Red Cross—“is the makeup tent, which they cleverly disguised as a medic’s tent, since they needed to go back and forth to it so often. England and France easily spent the most time in there outta anyone, ‘cause they had to do all the eye makeup for Arthur to look like he had been gassed and blinded. Being in the makeup chair is already annoying enough for anyone, but François chose to make it worse for Arthur by sitting in there next to him and blowing cigarette smoke in Arthur’s face the whole time,” Alfred snorted.

The video cut to another scene from the finished show, where England has been blinded by a gas attack. His eyes had been completely bandaged and he had been left to heal in the hospital tent. France had sat next to his cot to keep him company. In a sweet moment between the two, Francis leaned down and placed gentle kisses on each of England's bandaged eyes before giving him a kiss on the lips, a kiss which England returned. Flashing text had been edited onto the scene that simply read: TOTALLY WORTH IT.

“For the actual scene that took place in a medical tent, the one with Switz in it, they had a separate set. That was fucking *surreal*, having Switzerland actually agree to be on the show. The guy never agrees to be a part of *anything*. I mean, from what I heard, Liechtenstein basically begged him to be in it ‘cause she thought it would be cool... and would force him to *socialize*, and he begrudgingly agreed to be in, like, as few scenes as possible. Sure enough, he did one scene and one scene *only* as part of the International Red Cross where... I think he digs a bullet outta Matthew's leg? I forget. I just remember that everyone was like ‘he's barely doing any acting. He's just being his usual miserable self.’”

The video cut to the inside of a large garage; so large, it was more like an airport hanger. The inside was filled with vehicles of the time period, with cars, trucks, and even airplanes from various militaries. Alfred immediately made a bee-line for the centerpiece of the garage: a tank.

“Here it is, the pièce de résistance. A real Renault FT! What a beauty, huh! The studio got permission to borrow it from the Belgian museum that owns it. I actually know how to drive this thing; I even piloted one of these myself *during the war*. Not gonna lie though: we played around in this thing way more than we should've. I know I've got a few photos of me and my siblings horsing around in it.”

A photo of the tank showed up on screen. America was sitting in the cockpit, while Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were hanging off the sides. The North Americans were dressed in their period-accurate uniforms, though the ANZACs were wearing their respective countries' cricket shirts. All four were smiling and giving peace signs.

“It kept driving England and Germany crazy though. Those two were constantly like ‘don't be so reckless with the tank! *It belongs in a museum!*’ To which I was always like, ‘it's not even your tank! It's a French tank and François doesn't give a shit if we drive it in circles!’

I wonder if the guys on the Eastern Front set are doing the same kinda stupid stuff right now. I know Ed snapped me a photo of Latvia with a rifle, and the thing was literally taller than Raivis. The guy looked like a kid with a toy.”

The photo in question showed up on screen. Latvia was standing next to a rifle which had been leaned up against a wall. Latvia's hat didn't even reach the tip of the bayonet. Estonia had edited a ruler onto the photo, measuring Latvia's height. Text had also been added that simply read ‘Only 152cm, someone gave the baby a gun.’ Latvia's face could only be described as *done*.

“Poor dude,” Alfred chuckled. “He's gained a few inches in the last few decades but he still has a total baby face.”

Alfred returned to the Western Front set. He hopped down into one of the trenches and took a seat on a ledge, then flipped the camera back around to face himself.

“I think that’s it! There’s a whole bunch more soundstage sets, and there’s the Eastern Front sets, but I didn’t film in those places. Plus the Eastern Front is being filmed *super* far from here, out in the middle of nowhere practically. But now I can answer the questions people sent me about what it was like to play myself! Yesterday, I asked people on twitter to send in their questions for me to answer about the show.”

A series of screenshots from Twitter containing questions for Alfred appeared on screen.

“I think the most commonly asked question was just ‘what was it like playing yourself?’ I gotta say, it’s confusing. You memorize the script, but you also have the memories of what happened during the actual event. A bunch of times, we would... I dunno, ad-lib? lines that weren’t in the script but we remembered saying in real life. I know that Italy has a tendency to just ramble and unintentionally add in stuff that wasn’t in the script ‘cause he just loves talking, but there’s a scene that Feli started adding in stuff that he had said in real life and surprised everyone. He just started cursing up a storm! Apparently Venetians blaspheme *a lot*—which I was not aware of—and Feli does it when he’s really stressed, so Romano went and *smacked* him upside the head like ‘STOP BLASPHEMING.’ When they finished the scene, the director asked why they had added that, and everyone was just like ‘because that’s how it actually happened!’

A bunch of these are asking about the directors and what it was like working with the crew. I think it was definitely harder on them than it was for us. Getting Nations to work together can be like herding cats. The director kinda had to act like a babysitter sometimes. Especially when you have perfectionists like Austria who balk at even the smallest detail changes. Plus there was the issue of dealing with Nations who have never acted before. Germany really struggled with that. That guy was asking for instructions between every scene. I know that they gave everyone acting lessons, but I don’t think the concept really sunk in for him. Plus, there was a good amount of shenanigans on set, probably too many for me to count. There was a time when Matt and I were just waiting around during a scene in the trench, and ‘cause I was bored and Matt was standing on the step, I gave him a hot foot. And then he kicked me in the face! That started the ‘No More Pranks’ rule.

Oh! And to the few of you saying that *Personified* will never be as good as *Nations Reality* was, I sincerely hope you were being sarcastic. That thing was a *trainwreck*. I mean, I love so-bad-they’re-good movies as much as the next guy, but it gets a bit dangerous to take one that’s meant to be ‘historical’ and try and pass it off as historically accurate. That show had fricken *magical snow people in it!* It was clearly more fantasy than reality.

But yeah, I think that’s all for now. By the time I post this video, *Personified* will be out. I hope it’s as good as we assume it’ll be. And I hope you all watch it! I’m sure everyone would be interested in doing more seasons to cover more of history. World War I went pretty well; I think we could do a World War II season pretty well. Or any other time period! I’m down. Leave a comment on this video what your favorite part of the show is, and if you want there to be more of it in the future!

Love y’all! Goodbye!”

## Chapter End Notes

Thank you guys so much for your interest in the Public Nations AU and Alfred's YouTube channel! I hope I can make lots of these and fulfill the requests people have made on my [tumblr](#). I'm always open to more!

By the way, a 'hot foot' is a prank that's common among baseball players while hanging out in the dugout. A player puts matches in or on the shoe of a player that is standing on a higher ledge of the dugout. They then light the matches and set the player's shoe on fire, then wait for them to notice.

Please [drop by the Archive and comment](#) to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!